The EMS™

Support Ukraine

Emsworth Residents Forum
Community Newspaper

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Southleigh – Planning application submitted for 1,800 houses but no relief road

After years of uncertainty Bloor Homes have submitted to Havant BC a planning application to build 1,800 houses in the gap between Emsworth and Denvilles.

The site is west of Horndean Road, south of Bartons Road and east of the existing housing developments in Denvilles. It will effectively join Havant and Emsworth together. With no provision for a relief road to the A27, traffic from the new estate will be mainly channelled down Horndean Road into Emsworth adding to our already congested roads. The application was made just as The Ems went to print. Full details and the ERF's response will be in the Autumn edition.

Bloor have set up their own Southleigh website https://bloorsouthleigh.co.uk/

Two Hats for Tracie

Congratulations to Southbourne resident Tracie Bangert, who is now a cabinet member at both Chichester DC and West Sussex CC.

I have been a Liberal Democrat Chichester District Councillor for seven years, and Cabinet Member for Communities and Wellbeing since 2023. I have lived in Southbourne for thirty years with my husband, and it is where we have brought up our five children, and I have been very honoured to represent Southbourne Ward during this time.

On 7 May I stood for election to West Sussex County Council for the Bourne Division, where I was overwhelmed to be elected by a substantial majority. I want to thank everyone who supported me and has had faith in me to carry out this role, which I will execute on behalf of all the residents in the Division. We have formed the administration of the County in alliance with the Greens, Labour and the Selsey Local Alliance. I am very pleased to have been appointed to the 11-person Cabinet with the brief for Community Support, Fire and Rescue. I am also proud to have been appointed as Chair of Military Liaison, which I have been part of for the past seven years, as the only Army base in West Sussex is on Thorney Island in the Division.

It is still early days and I am going through induction, meeting the leadership of the Fire Service, and liaising with the Police, which I have had experience of at District. I am particularly pleased to have the Library Service and Archives in my portfolio, as I have worked in this sector. I am looking forward to my term in office, although this may only be two years given Local Government Reorganisation which is happening now and looking to merge the County and District Councils to create new unitary authorities in West Sussex and elsewhere.

If you wish to get in touch, please email me at tracie.bangert@westsussex.gov.uk.

Caribbean Summer Party at Emsworth Community Centre

On Saturday 27 June over 100 people enjoyed a special Caribbean themed evening held at the centre carpark. Authentic Caribbean music was provided by the Entertainers Steel Band who got the crowd up and dancing. Many people made an effort to dress up and there were some fine hats on display. A chicken barbecue was provided by staff from the centre.

Phew! What a scorcher!

Record temperatures of 34° C were recorded at the official Met Office weather station on Thorney Island on Wednesday 24 and Thursday 25 June. By Friday 26 the temperature had dropped back to 26° C. On 24 June Gosport was the hottest place in the UK at 35.6° C.

M Afandi

Development

Local Plan for Southbourne

The next round of public consultation on the Southbourne Allocation Development Plan Document will begin next month after councillors gave it the green light.

The document sets out the proposed allocation of land in Southbourne for future housing development and explains how this would be supported by community facilities and infrastructure. The consultation will run for six weeks from Friday 5 June 2026 until Friday 17 July 2026. Once complete, all comments received will be submitted alongside the document for independent examination by the Planning Inspectorate, on behalf of the Government. People will be able to view the document and make comments relating to the specific questions (or tests) by visiting: www.chichester.gov.uk/currentplanningpolicyconsultations from Friday 5 June 2026.

92 houses for Southbourne

Elivia Homes

Planning application 26/00630/OUT has been submitted to Chichester DC for 92 dwellings, following demolition of existing equine related buildings; open space, landscaping, pump station, substation and associated works, with land reserved for the delivery of railway footbridge. The site is on the south side of Cooks Lane, Southbourne. It is north of the railway line and to the west of Inlands Road and is currently used as paddocks. The developer is Elivia Homes, who are based in Beaconsfield, Bucks.

Swim Maison seek retrospective approval

Swim Maison, who operate a small Endless Pool for swimming instruction, have made application APP/25/01029 to HBC for change of use from Class E (Commercial) to Class F (Community). The pool opened in January 2022 and is located at Unit 2, 24 Palmers Road.

Under consideration

At the time of going to press the following significant planning applications were still be considered by HBC:

- APP/25/00697 Change of use of 24 Palmers Road from motor vehicle repair to double glazing showroom
- APP/24/01010. Construction of industrial estate at Interbridges East (Land to the east of the railway station)
- AP-0369 Appeal against the refusal to build 5 houses at 4 Long Copse Lane
- APP/26/00006. Fiscal House, Havant Road to provide studio space for the attached new gym and storage space for the yard, along with associated works

Chichester DC

- 25/03010 110 new dwellings at land to the north of Gosden Green, Main Road, Southbourne.

What is going on at Interbridges?

On 10 April a number of legal notices were affixed to the fencing at the main entrance to this development site. The notices claim that Highways Agency (HA) owns the strip of land where a fence was located and gave the occupier of the land (believed to be PNH Properties) two weeks to remove the fencing. A planning application to develop this site as an industrial estate was submitted to HBC at the end of 2024 (APP/24/01010). When The Ems contacted PNH for comment they were unaware of the notices erected by HA and now have moved the fence about 10 metres in from the road. The site is opposite Emsworth station.

Long Copse Lane – A Bleak Outlook

Words by Save Long Copse Lane Team

With the Council elections now concluded, Havant Borough Council has announced its new cabinet members and their responsibilities. Delivering a fully approved Local Plan remains one of the administration's highest priorities. At the Emsworth Residents Forum meeting on 11 June, the new Leader, Cllr Gillian Harris MBE, confirmed that the draft plan must be ready for submission by Autumn 2026 at the latest.

Government reforms have significantly curtailed councils' influence over planning decisions, meaning Emsworth residents now have even less ability to shape development in their own community. Establishing a Town Council could help restore some of that local voice, and the Emsworth Residents Forum continues to press this case.

Infrastructure concerns are also mounting. Residents are being warned that the major improvements needed to support additional housing in Emsworth are unlikely to materialise. Traffic congestion is expected to worsen across the town, and further development along the A259 by Chichester District Council will only add to the pressure on local roads.

Havant Borough Council has also raised concerns about Southern Water's plans to upgrade the Thornham Wastewater Treatment Works. There is still no clear explanation of how the Thornham catchment could accommodate the demands of new housing without causing environmental harm.

Despite accepting that the borough can realistically deliver only 7,218 homes against a Government target of 17,840, HBC continues to keep the Long Copse Lane site in the Draft Local Plan. This is in spite of a long history of independent reports and expert assessments concluding that the site is unsuitable for development.

The Save Long Copse Lane team recognises the urgency of progressing the Local Plan. However, it is essential that all newly appointed councillors fully understand why the LCL site is not viable — and the serious, unresolved issues that would arise should any new planning applications be submitted.

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- Patio Cleaning & Repairs
- Shed Building
- Flat Pack Furniture Assembly
- Facia & Soffits
- Fence Repairs & Installation
- and much more

Emsworth takes a major step toward its own Parish Council

Emsworth is moving closer to establishing its own Parish Council after a strong community response to Havant Borough Council's Governance Review. The council published a draft proposal and sought residents' views.

The key proposals are:

- Creating 'Emsworth Parish Council' for the whole parish area
- Electing 15 councillors
- Introducing a precept (up to £50 per year for Band D households) to fund early setup and services

The initial phase would focus on setting up the council, appointing a small staff team and beginning to influence local decisions. The new council could support youth activities, cultural events, improving the town centre and help strengthen local voluntary groups/services. Initially, it would manage the three allotment sites working closely with allotment holders, with further assets to be considered once the new South East Hants Unitary Authority is in place.

Emsworth Residents Forum believes that this is a once in a lifetime opportunity. When the parish council is established, the ERF would like to see it renamed Emsworth Town Council. A new survey was carried out by HBC which closed on 1 July. Consultation events were also held in Emsworth on 8 and 17 June.

https://havant.govocal.com/en-GB/projects/emsworth-cgr-phasetwo www.havant.gov.uk/cgr

If approved elections for the new council could take place in May 2027.

Editor: The final decision about whether Emsworth will have its own council will be made by Havant BC on 15 July - just a little too late for this issue.

Emsworth's Parish Council Consultation Nears Its Conclusion

Words by Dwynwen Stepien, Chair, ERF

As I write this article the consultation on whether Emsworth should have its own parish council draws to a close, it's worth reflecting on what this change could mean for our community. Many of our neighbours — Westbourne, Southbourne, Clanfield, Horndean, Rowlands Castle — already have parish or town councils. If Emsworth were to follow suit, renaming itself Emsworth Town Council, we would be joining a well-established network of local councils across South Hampshire. We would not be alone.

Emsworth Residents Forum believes that this is a once in a lifetime opportunity. When the parish council is established, the ERF would like to see it renamed Emsworth Town Council.

Juliet Walker

These discussions come at a time of significant change: a newly shaped Havant Borough Council and the expectation of a new South East Hampshire unitary authority. In such a landscape, having a local body that speaks directly for Emsworth could make a real difference.

Recently we met with Rowlands Castle and Horndean Parish Councils, and were struck by their professionalism, dedication and genuine passion for their communities. They run an impressive range of services — one great example being their Residents' Enquiry Service, where any question or concern from a resident is taken on and directed to the right officer or councillor. With our new unitary authority on the horizon, this kind of service will be invaluable. Large authorities often know little about the smaller places within them, and residents can struggle to find the right contact. A parish or town council provides that essential local bridge.

Other parish councils also run innovative community initiatives, such as volunteer-matching platforms that connect local people with local needs — a simple idea that strengthens community life. With only five or six parish councils likely to exist within the new Portsmouth and South East Hampshire authority, the question is not "Would we be too small to matter?" but rather "Could a strong, well-run Emsworth Town Council give our community the voice it needs?" The examples around us suggest the answer is yes.

Community Support and What Happens Next

The consultation itself has been very positive. Over 88% of respondents supported creating a parish council rather than adopting an area forum or community panel. With 1,441 responses, representing around 14% of Emsworth residents, the return rate may seem modest, but this is not a general election, there were no postal votes and participation levels are actually far higher than in many other Community Governance Reviews which have been successful.

Emsworth's engagement has been remarkably strong. If, despite this, the proposal were to be turned down on 15 July, residents would rightly expect Havant Borough Council to demonstrate that it has applied the statutory criteria fully and fairly. Safeguards exist to ensure that decisions about local democracy are made transparently and in the best interests of the community. I hope in July that we have a positive outcome and we can continue to work together to Keep Emsworth Special.

Juliet Walker

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Council News

Havant BC

Cabinet changes at HBC
Councillor Gillian Harris MBE (Labour) has been appointed Leader of Havant Borough Council, becoming the first woman to lead the authority. Representing Havant St Faith's ward, Councillor Harris also leads the Labour Group, bringing with her the experience she has as a borough councillor since 2023. She also brings a wealth of knowledge from her professional background as head of Tower Hamlets School's Library Service.

Following the May elections there is now a new Cabinet at HBC

- Gillian Harris (Labour) Leader. Regeneration
- Netty Shepherd (Green) Deputy Leader. Public Realm
- Jonathan Hulls (Green) Coastal and Local Plan
- Phil Munday (Labour) Local Government Reorganisation, Governance
- Richard Brown (Labour) Planning
- Philippa Gray (Lib-Dem) Finance
- Amy Redsull (Labour) Housing
- Antonia Harrison (Lib-Dem) Communities

New mayor at Havant
Councillor Paul Tansom (Lib Dem) Purbrook has been sworn in as the new Mayor of Havant.

No HBC elections next year
One third of the councillors elected in 2024 were due to come up for re-election in 2027. However no elections will be held as HBC will cease to exist as from 31 March 2028. Councillors such as Reuben Mychaleckyj (Green) will stay in office unit 2028.

Hampshire CC

Nick Adams-King, Leader of HCC

The new County Council Cabinet, (all Conservatives apart from Andy Tree) will comprise:

- Councillor Nick Adams-King - Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Services
- Councillor Kirsty North - Deputy Leader and Executive Lead Member for Universal Services
- Councillor Roz Chadd - Executive Lead Member for Children's Services
- Councillor Zoe Huggins - Executive Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health
- Councillor Joanne Burton - Executive Member for Health and Wellbeing
- Councillor Steve Forster - Executive Member for Highways and Passenger Transport
- Councillor Juliet Henderson - Executive Member for Education
- Councillor Stephen Reid - Executive Member for Corporate Services - Finance
- Councillor Andy Tree (Whitehill and Bordon Community Party) - Executive Member for Corporate Services, People and Local Government Reorganisation

West Sussex CC

In West Sussex, the Liberal Democrats have formed a cross-party coalition with the Greens, Labour and the Local Alliance Party (Selsey). Cllr Jay Mercer, leader of the Liberal Democrat group, has been appointed leader of the council, with Cllr Sam Raby (Lib-Dem) as deputy leader and cabinet member for children, young people and learning. The coalition holds 36 of the 70 available seats, giving it a narrow working majority as the council faces budget-setting, service pressures and local government reorganisation.

The Contributions of Lulu Bowerman to Emsworth

Words by Dwynwen Stepien, Chair, ERF

As Lulu moves out of the world of politics (for now) a new chapter dawns. The Ems thought it would be a good time to summarise the many contributions Lulu has made over the last 20 or so years - and of course to say thank you.

Championing Emsworth's Food Culture
Emsworth's reputation as a food-loving town owes much to the legacy of the Emsworth Food Festival, launched in 2001. What began as a modest celebration of local produce grew into one of the most distinctive food events, attracting thousands of visitors each year. Although the festival paused in the mid2000s its spirit lives on, and Lulu remains a strong supporter of Emsworth's food heritage and the independent businesses that sustain it.

This links with Lulu's work with the Emsworth Business Association, working closely with traders and community groups. She championed High Street issues, supported local economic priorities, and acted as a point of contact for businesses needing help or escalation.

A Local Politician Rooted in Community
Lulu's journey into local politics began in 2016, encouraged by the late Brendan Gibb-Gray, who at that time was stepping down due to ill health. With characteristic humour, she agreed only on the condition that she would be known as the Sorcerer's Apprentice. Their shared commitment to Emsworth created a strong partnership which Lulu continues in her role as Trustee of Ems Valley Memorial Arboretum.
As a Havant Borough Councillor, Lulu scrutinised decisions, supported service delivery, raised residents' concerns and worked closely with community organisations. Her dual roles at borough and county level meant she could advocate for Emsworth across both tiers of local government.

At Hampshire County Council, she served on committees shaping highways, transport, waste and universal services. She was particularly proud of the major upgrade to M27 Junction 10, creating a full 'all-moves' junction and a new spur road linking the motorway to Welborne Garden Village and the A32 — a significant infrastructure achievement.

Leading the Emsworth Alliance During COVID-19
One of Lulu's most significant contributions came during the COVID-19 pandemic. She led the Emsworth Alliance, a partnership of community groups, volunteers, churches, businesses and residents. The Alliance delivered prescriptions, shopping, wellbeing calls and street-level support networks, becoming a vital lifeline and demonstrating the power of joined-up community action.

A Festive Touch
Lulu is also fondly associated with Emsworth's lobster pot Christmas tree and annual Christmas lights switch-on — a local tradition involving schools, churches and local groups working together.

Lulu managed all this for the residents of Emsworth while continuing her own employment and with the support of her (long suffering) husband, daughter and menagerie.

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Local Government Reform

Re-organisation of Hampshire

The government has put forward proposals which may be subject to legal challenges. (see below)

The names of the new unitary councils:

- North Hampshire,
- Mid Hampshire
- South-West Hampshire
- South-East Hampshire

Joint Committees are being established with 50% of the membership to be councillors representing the existing unitary councils of Southampton and Portsmouth, with the other 50% to be Councillors representing the county, districts and boroughs. The Chair is to be a member of the unitary council, with the Deputy Chair determined by the joint committee and not to come from the unitary council. There will be one Implementation Team, and officers from all preceding councils are to be included, with the leader of the team being the Chief Executive of Hampshire County Council. There will be a deputy team leader to be agreed locally from a district/borough/unitary in each new unitary area.

Hampshire County Council to pursue judicial review of local government reorganisation

The decision was approved by the council's cabinet on 9 June and will challenge whether the government has properly explained and justified its decision to back a reorganisation model that would split communities across Hampshire into new unitary authorities. The council argues the government's proposals were developed too quickly and without sufficient evidence, financial analysis or local agreement.

He said the key issue is not whether local government reorganisation should happen, but whether the process has been carried out properly. Addressing the estimated £500,000 cost of legal action, Cllr Adams-King said it should be weighed against the potential long-term costs of the government's plans that could cost tens of millions of pounds more than the current system.

However, Liberal Democrat councillor David Harrison warned the move carries significant risks and said the money could be better spent "filling a lot of potholes."

He added: "Even if a judicial review is successful, it does not force the government to change policy. It is about the process, not the outcome."

Electoral arrangements

Local elections scheduled for 6 May 2027 will be replaced with all out elections to the new Unitary councils. Councillors will be elected for a first term of five years with the subsequent election in 2032, after which the standard four-year term will apply. This is in line with recent reorganisations and brings benefits of stability, with new councillors serving most of their first year on the 'shadow' council. Existing councils such as Havant BC and Hampshire CC would continue to function until April 2028. Their roles would then be fully taken over by the new Unitary Council. It is also proposed that any elections to Town/Parish councils should also be held in May 2027.

Warding arrangements for Hampshire

The proposed councillor numbers for the new Unitary councils:

- 85 for North Hampshire
- 92 for Mid Hampshire
- 82 for South-West Hampshire
- 99 for South-East Hampshire (pop. 538,000)

At present the Borough of Havant (pop. 126,000) has 36 councillors and also elects 7 councillors to Hampshire CC. Under the new arrangements Havant could have around 24 councillors with Emsworth (pop. 10,269) probably having two councillors.

Sussex tries again

Wikipedia

The Government launched a further consultation on options for local government reorganisation in Sussex. Following feedback from the previous consultation, which opened in November, the Government is now seeking views on two additional options. These are based on modifications to proposals previously submitted by local authorities in Sussex. The consultation ran until 15 June and can be accessed at: https://consult.communities.gov.uk/local-government-reorganisation/west-sussex-two-unitary-proposal-modification/

In West Sussex, the additional proposal involves the creation of two unitary authorities. One authority would bring together Chichester District, Crawley Borough, Horsham District and Mid Sussex District, serving a population of approximately 566,000. The second would combine Arun District, Adur District and Worthing Borough, with an estimated population of 349,000.

Hampshire and Solent Mayoral Authority

Reform UK set to take one seat of the mayoral authority board

The new Hampshire and Solent Mayoral Combined County authority (MCCA) is moving closer to becoming operational, with Reform UK set to take one of the two county council's seats on its main decision-making board. Under the proposals, Hampshire County Council will appoint two members – the Conservative council leader Cllr Nick Adams-King and the Reform UK group leader Cllr George Madgwick. The move gives Reform UK a place in the new structure at an early stage, following recent gains in local elections and a stronger presence on the county council. The Hampshire and Solent MCCA is being created as part of the government's devolution programme, bringing together Hampshire County Council, Isle of Wight Council, Portsmouth City Council and Southampton City Council.

Once running, the new authority will make decisions on transport, economic development and investment, with a directly elected mayor due in 2028.

However, for now the board will operate without a mayor and will include one member from each of the three unitary councils and two from Hampshire County Council.

The new regional authority has been formally established

Pixabay

The Hampshire and the Solent Combined County Authority (HSCCA) is now a reality following parliamentary approval. HSCCA will have devolved powers from Westminster to focus on priority areas, including transport, housing, skills, investment and economic growth. At its inaugural meeting, expected to be held in July, the authority will establish itself as an operating organisation, adopting its constitution and setting out its governance arrangements, decision-making process and how it will work with partners. Under the devolution deal, the authority will receive investment funding of £44.6 million a year for 30 years. However, for the first two years before a regional mayor is elected in 2028, the allocation will be £17.84 million. Councils will continue to run day-to-day services such as social care, waste management and road maintenance.

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Emsworth Arts

Emsworth Arts Trail 2026

Words by Samantha Millington

Emsworth Arts Trail celebrated its 25th year in 2026, with the added touch of a silver embellished trail guide. The trail originally began in 2001, with Marian Forster and Helena Hines being the only remaining founding and original members.

The trail continues to attract visitors from outside the area and provides valuable support to local businesses through increased footfall. This year's event featured 100 artists who opened their studios, homes, and venues, inviting visitors to view and discuss their work.

Nineteen artists took part in the trail for the first time and appreciated the opportunity to share their work whilst becoming part of a vibrant and supportive artistic community. Exhibited works included paintings, printmaking, textiles, ceramics, jewellery, and woodwork. The printed trail guide and online guide helped visitors navigate the many locations across Emsworth. This year also saw the introduction of a new DL-size map, which proved particularly popular with visitors.

Emsworth Arts Trail extends its sincere gratitude to everyone who contributed to the success of this year's event. The support of artists, volunteers, sponsors, local businesses and visitors continues to strengthen Emsworth's reputation as an attractive cultural destination on the South Coast. Many local businesses generously displayed artists' work in their windows, helping to bring art into the heart of the community. Special thanks go to local videographer Schlep, who once again supported the promotion of the trail by producing a film showcasing artists at work in their studios, offering a fascinating insight into the creativity, craftsmanship, and processes behind the artworks.

The committee is already looking forward to planning next year's trail and hopes to welcome both returning and new visitors in 2027 for another celebration of art, creativity, and community.

Next year's dates for the trail are 24-25 April and 1-3 May

Emsworth Art Group say farewell to ex-chairman, Jeremy Ball

Jeremy Ball joined Emsworth Art Group in November 2005, and quickly volunteered to join the committee to help to run the two annual exhibitions. He took over as Chairman in 2012 and continued in that position for 10 years until 2022. Jeremy is now leaving Emsworth and the group to be nearer his family. In recognition of what he has done for the group a certificate and gift were presented to him by the present chairman, Eileen Higham. The group thanked him for all his dedication and work over the past years. He stated that he considered it a privilege to belong to such a friendly and talented group for over 20 years,

Eileen Higham and Jeremy Ball

Emsworth Art Group have now moved back into their 'home' at Emsworth Community Centre. They were displaced by the fire there late last year, moving to the Emsworth Baptist Church where they were made very welcome for their temporary stay. The group comprises about 40 keen artists of all abilities who work in a variety of media and subjects. There is a lot of experimentation encouraged by workshops and watching other members' work.

The next big event for the group will be their Winter Exhibition on the last weekend of October in Emsworth Community Centre. It is always popular with visitors. The group meets every Wednesday morning from 9.15 to 11.15 at the Community Centre. It is very popular and has a short waiting list for new members. If you would like to see them at work, come along any Wednesday morning to chat about joining. If you wish to be put on the waiting list contact the secretary, Trevor Smith, on his email: atrevorsmith@gmail.com.

Emsworth Artists Summer Exhibition

We are holding our Annual Exhibition from Saturday 23 August until Wednesday 2 September at the Community Centre, Church Path, Emsworth from 10am till 5pm daily; admission is free. We will be celebrating our 40th Anniversary next year - an amazing milestone which we are looking forward to immensely.

Along with our popular long-standing artists we have invited several new talented artists to join us this year and there will be a diverse range of work on display: paintings, prints, ceramics, sculpture, glass work and willow work. All these artists live within a two mile radius of Emsworth Square. Our exhibition showcases the work of Emsworth's top Artists and visitors travel from far afield to see it.

Each year we are able to donate a substantial amount of money to the Community Centre, which over the past 38 years has amounted to well over £50,000. We have this year a painting by Simon Cowper as our Raffle Prize.

The Emsworth Artists Committee

The raffle prize by Simon Cowper

News from our Councillors

Green Party

Cllr Grainne Rason

Thank you to all residents who voted this May. It seems a long time ago. I am now what people call a 'double hatter' as I will continue to serve as your ward council whilst representing you on Hampshire County Council.

I have joined the Independent Group in Hampshire and have been allocated a place on the Audit Committee and other select committees as detailed below:

- Audit Committee
- Children and Young People Select Committee (Independent Group Spokesperson)
- Conduct Advisory Panel (Independent Group Deputy)
- Corporate Services and Resources Select Committee (Independent Group Deputy)
- County Council
- Extraordinary County Council
- Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee (Independent Group Spokesperson)
- Regulatory Committee (Independent Group Deputy)
- River Hamble Harbour Management Committee (Independent Group Deputy)
- Special County Council
- Universal Services Select Committee (Independent Group Deputy)

Since May, I have attended a full day's induction, county council, attended meetings with the Regulatory committee, the Health and Adult Social Care select committee, Universal Services Select Committee, Children and Young people's Select Committee, Corporate Services and Resources Select Committee and Audit Committee. I have also attended various member's briefings on Children's services, Emergency planning, Corporate Management and Councillor Grants training.

I hold an assistant role for Climate and Nature on Havant Borough Council and have stepped down from Havant Cabinet to focus on County responsibilities. We are continuing to work on EV chargers for car parks. Unfortunately, Emsworth has a barrier to making this happen as it has limited capacity. SSE has plans to increase the size of the substation but that is many years away. Havant Community Energy group continues to make progress in obtaining grants for retrofitting and installing renewable energy for local community centres.

As a Hampshire county councillor, I have a budget of £5000 to support local projects. Grants are awarded in amounts from £100 to £1000 following strict criteria. The grants are awarded to support specific projects in the community; not general operating costs. Applications are welcome from a wide range of organisations serving Hampshire communities. To find out more please visit the website on the link below.

www.hants.gov.uk/community/grants/grants-list/county-councillor#step-1

V Gariev

The Family Information and Services Hub is a great go to service for parents and carers

Having attended the Children and Young People select committee, I learnt about the Family Information and Services Hub. This is a great go to service for parents and carers covering Childcare and Early Years education, SEND support, Family support, Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health and Young people's employment and training. The Youth Hub in Leigh Park is there to support those aged 16-24 and is so successful that Havant Borough have been asked to help set up similar projects elsewhere.

As part of the Water Matters group, we have written to our local councils in Havant and Portsmouth about how Southern Water consulted residents on the recycled sewage effluent project for Havant Thicket. I am deeply concerned about the 'forever chemicals' that sewage treatment is not removing and the work that needs to be done to bring the River Ems back to health. I will continue to campaign on this matter.

Cllr Reuben Mychaleckyj

Over the past year, I have had the privilege of volunteering at Rushmere Farm, a pioneering organic farm nestled in the rolling hills of Hambledon. Having spent my days with my hands in the earth, I have witnessed a landscape in the middle of a beautiful transformation. Over the last five years, the farm has radically shifted away from conventional, chemical-heavy agriculture. By completely stopping the use of artificial fertilisers and synthetic pesticides, it has embraced a gentler, more sustainable relationship with nature.

Instead of relying on quick chemical fixes, Rushmere uses a system that minimises impact on the ecosystem, building biodiversity as a means to manage crop health, and deploys mob grazing—moving livestock frequently across small areas to mimic natural herd behaviours. These practices focus entirely on repairing and rebuilding our fragile soil.

George, the passionate third generation farmer who took over from his dad, shared an incredible statistic that just by eliminating artificial fertilisers, the farm has gone from being a net emitter of 240 tonnes of CO_2 equivalent each year to being carbon negative. Now, instead of releasing harmful emissions, the farm's thriving, undisturbed soil actively captures and stores carbon from the atmosphere.

Volunteering here has shown me that the future of food production relies on honouring the wisdom of the past. It starts in our own backyards by making sure we don't spray harsh chemical weedkillers on our so-called 'weeds'. Chemical-free organic food is one of the best ways to enjoy a healthier lifestyle and to look after our precious soil.

Rushmere Farm has a sustainable relationship with nature

Facebook

Cllr Charles Robert

First a massive thank you for all that voted for me in the May elections.

One for the puzzle solvers: what is the link between gene pool refresh, corridors and SINCs?

As development from housing continues to increase so too does pressure on our vital wildlife corridors. What remains is a fragment of what we once had so it becomes even more essential that they are protected and enhanced to be the best possible. These corridors give opportunity for animal species to migrate to new food sources and thus reduce impact from overuse of an area. They help reduce interbreeding which can ultimately weaken the gene pool and potentially give rise to more disorders and disease.

SINCs (Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation) play a really important role and if they form part of the wildlife corridor then even more important. The 'grass meadow' SINC at Emsworth Recreation ground is mitigation for the partially lost SINC just to the north where a housing estate now exists. I am extremely pleased to say work is progressing to set up a 'Friends of...' group to manage this SINC. It is part of a corridor that runs north-south on the west edge of Emsworth and in part adjoining the proposed Southleigh Road development, which if it comes to fruition will further squeeze the corridor into a narrow strip.

Residents of Emsworth tell us they place a high priority on our open spaces and wildlife. I am absolutely in favour of protection of these special places. Once a corridor is lost through property development it is probably lost indefinitely.

Work on the Havant Local Plan continues with an effort to set it in place before we become part of the new Unitary Authority. There are no guarantees, but a plan is better than no plan and gives us some leverage.

Residents place a high priority on our open spaces and wildlife

Election Special

Havant Borough Council

Elections were held on 7 May for all 12 wards of Havant BC (1/3 of councillors). Reform UK won 9 out of the 12 seats. Labour held St Faiths and the Greens held Emsworth and Hayling West.

The results for Emsworth Ward were:
- Charles Robert (Green) 2185 (49%) ELECTED
- Andrew Proctor (Conservative) 1261
- Allan Darby (Reform UK) 992

Turnout 53.5%

Havant will continue to be run by a Labour/ Green/Lib-Dem coalition with Cllr Gillian Harris (Labour, St Faiths) as the new leader of the Council. The coalition holds 18 out of 36 seats.

The new Havant BC comprises:
- Reform 10 (5)
- Labour 7 (9)
- Green 6 (6)
- Lib-Dems 5 (5)
- Conservatives 5 (8)
- Independents 3 (3)

(Numbers in brackets are state of the Council prior to the election)

Charles Robert - Green Pary councillor for Emsworth ward at HBC

Past results for Emsworth Ward
In 2024 there were boundary changes and elections were held for all 36 seats at HBC (3 seats per ward) HBC holds elections for 1/3 of its councillors each year.

Party	2018	2019	2021 postponed from 2020	2022	2023	2024 3 seats
Conservative	2,195 (69%)	1,335 (41%)	1,961 (53%)	1,659 (50%)	1092	3,495
Labour	689	322	777	Not contested	453	Not contested
Lib Dems	294	781	439	844	373	762 (2 candidates)
Green	Not contested	498	511	777	1721 (46%)	6,093 (57%)
Other parties	Not contested	294 (UKIP)	Not contested	Not contested	129 (ADF)	287 (Reform UK) 1 candidate

Hampshire County Council

Elections were also held on Thursday 7 May for all 78 seats at Hampshire CC, which was Conservative controlled.

The results for Emsworth & St Faiths division were:
- Grainne Rason (Green) 2448 (34%) ELECTED
- Andrew Proctor (Conservative) 1858
- Jerry White (Reform) 1743
- Michael Lind (Lib-Dem) 507
- Dan Berwick (Labour) 717

Turnout 52%

Lulu Bowerman (Conservative) who had previously represented Emsworth & St Faiths at HCC stood unsuccessfully as the Conservative candidate for NW Havant (HCC) and as the Conservative candidate for Leigh Park Hermitage in the Havant BC election. Both these seats were won by Reform candidates. Grainne Rason is also the Green Party councillor for Emsworth ward at HBC.

Although Hampshire CC now has no overall majority the Conservatives will continue to lead Hampshire County Council after securing enough votes to retain control of the authority. Cllr Nick Adams-King has been re-elected as leader of the county council after defeating Liberal Democrat candidate Cllr Keith House by six votes.

Grainne Rason - Green Pary councillor for Emsworth & St Faiths division

The new HCC comprises:
- Conservative 27 (50)
- Liberal Democrats 26 (19)
- Labour 1 (3)
- Green 1 (1)
- Reform 19 (1)
- Independents 3 (4)

(Numbers in brackets are state of the Council prior to the election)

Past results for Emsworth & St Faiths division, HCC
The 2025 County Council elections were postponed until this year due to local government reorganisation.

Party	2013	2017	2021
Conservative	2,202 (43%)	3,299 (59%)	3,200 (53%)
Labour	371	820	765
Lib Dems	636	613	1,315
Green	778	492	784
Other parties	1167 (UKIP)	338 (UKIP)	Not contested

Hustings

Election hustings for the HBC and HCC elections were held at Emsworth Baptist Church on 28 April. Around 50 people attended the event and were able to ask delegates from all parties a wide variety of questions.

Election Special

West Sussex County Council

Elections were held on 7 May for all 70 seats at West Sussex CC which was controlled by the Conservatives.

The results for Bourne Division (Westbourne, Southbourne, Thorney area) were:

- Tracie Bangert (Lib Dems) 2485 ELECTED (49%)
- Antoine Delepine (Green Party) 379
- Gail Adams (Labour) 122
- Bill Mills (Conservative) 791
- Charlotte Sleep (Reform UK) 1275

Turnout 48%

Andrew Kerry-Beddell was the Green Party councillor for Bourne (originally elected as a Lib-Dem in 2021) but he stood down. Tracie Bangert is also the Lib-Dem councillor for Southbourne at Chichester DC. The Lib Dems also won Chichester North, South, West and East, The Witterings and Midhurst.

Tracie Bangert - Lib Dems councillor for Bourne division

New 'cross-party alliance' for West Sussex

A new Liberal Democrat-led cross-party alliance has been formed to run the county council following this month's local elections. The leaders of the Liberal Democrats, Green Party, and Labour Group, alongside the newly appointed Chair Cllr Donna Johnson of the Local Alliance, Selsey, have agreed to work together. The alliance will now work collectively to set council priorities, agree the budget, and oversee the delivery of essential services. Councillor Jay Mercer, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, was appointed Leader of the Council, and Councillor Sam Raby as Deputy Leader.

The new makeup of WSCC is

- Lib Dems 23 (10)
- Conservatives 11 (40)
- Labour 5 (8)
- Reform UK 23 (4)
- Green 7 (1)
- Independents 1 (6)

(Figures in brackets show state of parties prior to May elections)

Past results for for Bourne division, West Sussex County Council (Westbourne, Southbourne, Thorney area)

The 2025 County Council elections were postponed until this year due to local government reorganisation.

Party	2013	2017	2019 (November by-election)	2021 May	2021 (November by-election)
Conservative	1,158	1,357	1,368	1,859	893
Labour	295	264	161	336	25
Lib Dems	360	659	1,009	1,064	1,180
Green	Not contested	234	250	400	178
Other parties	1,241 (UKIP)	895 (UKIP)	Not contested	Not contested	Not contested

The Conservatives won in 2017 but their candidate defected to the Brexit Party and resigned in 2019. The Conservative candidate won in the 2019 by-election and held the seat in May 2021 but then resigned from WSCC. Andrew Kerry-Beddell won the seat for the Lib-Dems in the Nov 2021 by-election but since February 2025 sat as a member of the Green Party.

Springfield Care

Finding the right care home is one of the most important decisions a family can make. Beyond quality care, families want the reassurance that their loved ones will be comfortable, supported, and able to enjoy a fulfilling lifestyle.

At Springfield and Prinsted Care Homes, creating a genuine home-from-home environment is at the heart of everything we do. Both homes provide residential care, dementia care and respite care, with personalised support tailored to each resident's individual needs. Our focus is always on promoting dignity, independence and wellbeing while ensuring residents feel safe, valued and respected.

A warm and welcoming atmosphere greets visitors from the moment they arrive. Residents enjoy comfortable rooms that can be personalised with photographs, keepsakes and familiar belongings. These personal touches help create a sense of familiarity and comfort, making the transition into care much easier and allowing residents to remain connected to cherished memories.

Good nutrition plays a vital role in health and happiness, and both homes take great pride in the meals they provide. Our residents enjoy freshly prepared, balanced meals that cater to individual tastes and dietary requirements. Mealtimes are also an important social occasion, bringing residents together to enjoy good food, conversation and companionship in a relaxed setting.

Companionship and social interaction are central to daily life at Springfield and Prinsted. Recognising the importance of staying active and engaged, our homes organise activities twice a day, with sessions taking place both morning and afternoon. From gentle exercise and games to creative and social activities, there is always something to enjoy. These activities help residents stay physically active, mentally stimulated and connected with those around them.

Strong family and community connections are equally important. Weekly coffee mornings provide a wonderful opportunity for residents, relatives, friends and visitors to come together. Prinsted hosts its coffee morning every Wednesday morning, while Springfield welcomes guests on Wednesday afternoons. These regular gatherings help nurture friendships, strengthen family bonds, and reinforce the welcoming community spirit that both homes are known for.

The outdoor spaces at both homes are a much-loved feature for residents and visitors alike. Prinsted benefits from a large, beautifully maintained garden, while Springfield, which operates across two houses, offers attractive garden areas where residents can relax, enjoy the fresh air and spend time with family and friends. Prinsted also includes two self-contained lodges within its grounds, providing additional accommodation while maintaining the home's welcoming atmosphere. The gardens become the focal point of one of the highlights of the year, the annual summer garden parties. These popular events bring together residents, families, staff, and members of the local community for a day filled with delicious BBQ food, live entertainment, laughter, and friendship. They perfectly capture the strong sense of community that exists across both homes.

Age Cymru

Companionship and social interaction are central to daily life

At Springfield and Prinsted Care Home, care extends far beyond meeting practical needs. It is about creating a supportive community where residents feel valued, respected and able to continue enjoying life. Through comfortable accommodation, nutritious food, engaging activities, meaningful companionship, and beautiful outdoor spaces, both homes offer something truly special: a place where residents can feel safe, happy, and genuinely at home.

SPRINGFIELD
CARE HOMES

Comfort, Care and Community
Springfield Care Homes

At Springfield Care, we provide exceptional, person centred care across our welcoming homes in Springfield, Prinsted and our independent Living Lodges.

Our kind and compassionate teams create a warm, supportive environment where every resident is treated with dignity and respect. With delicious home cooked meals, comfortable surroundings and beautifully landscaped gardens, our homes are designed to feel truly relaxed and homely.

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- Comfortable living spaces
- Residential and assisted living lodges
- Varied activities programme
- Landscaped gardens
- Nutritious home cooked food

Call or visit today to learn more about our Springfield and Prinsted Care Homes

Springfield: **01243 372 445** Prinsted: **01243 372 024**

www.springfieldcare.co.uk

Over £400,000 granted to Emsworth health and wellbeing projects during Reg's 25 years with The Friends

Words by Dr Theo Schofield OBE, Chairman, Friends of Emsworth Community Health

As former Chairman and long-serving Trustee, Reg Harnett, steps down after 25 years of service to The Friends, it feels like an appropriate moment to reflect not only on his contribution, but also on how much the Charity has evolved during that time.

When Reg first became involved in 2000, we were still known as the Friends of Emsworth Hospital, and our focus was very much centred around Victoria Cottage Hospital. Since then, healthcare in Emsworth has changed significantly and, following the hospital's closure in 2013, The Friends evolved into The Friends of Emsworth Community Health.

Over the past 10 years in particular, the Charity has broadened its support across the community – helping schools, young people, older residents, care homes and volunteer-led organisations focused on health and wellbeing. Much of that work was made possible following a generous legacy left to the Charity in 2013 by a local resident. Since then, more than £400,000 has been granted to projects and initiatives across Emsworth, including a £65,000 contribution towards the new furniture for Emsworth Medical Practice.

This year alone, more than £25,000 has already been committed to local grants.

Throughout all of this, Reg has provided sound judgment and an enormous amount of quiet dedication. On behalf of everyone involved with The Friends, I would like to thank him sincerely for everything he has done for the Charity and for the wider Emsworth community.

I would also like to thank all of the trustees, members and volunteers – past and present – whose continued commitment has helped shape The Friends over so many years, including those working alongside us through the Emsworth Health Alliance.

Rotarian wins award

Havant Rotary's President, Graham Smith was awarded the Havant Honorary Citizen Award on 20 May as part of the Mayor Making ceremony at The Plaza, in recognition of his services to the Havant community over the last 30 years.

Graham, who was responsible for starting Havant Rotary's Christmas sleigh which celebrates 20 years this year, is well known for coming up with 'a cunning plan'.

Graham leads a team at Havant Rotary that run a number of projects in the community that aim to make a positive difference. These projects include Feed Havant, that works with all of the food banks in the borough; the Rotary Christmas sleigh; the Easter egg project that this year has helped charities raise over £30,000; the QA Children's emergency department art project; Make a Difference fund and many more.

Graham, who was advised of the award in February, said, "While it is nice to be recognised and a proud day, none of these things can be achieved by yourself. I have always been supported by my family and the great team at Havant Rotary."

Graham Smith, winner of a Havant Honorary Citizen Award

Graham, who is a resident of Hayling Island, was delighted to celebrate a good day for Hayling as Marilyn Skennerton also received a similar award and Mark Coates became Deputy Mayor.

Bourne Quilters

Bourne Quilters 2026 Show is a two-day extravaganza of our previously unshown work that has been created over the last 2 years. It's on 25 and 26 July, 10am - 3.30pm at Emsworth Community Centre PO10 7DD.

We fill the entire five rooms of the community centre with quilts, wall hangings, bags, cushions and fabric art. There will also be a Young Quilters' display, a display from our very creative Challenge group and a range of quilting demonstrations.

Together with the beautiful exhibits you will find a sales table stocked with items made by Bourne Quilters, Traders tables, and a destash stall. We serve delicious refreshments including homemade cakes and savoury items.

Entry is £3. Proceeds support local charities.

Day of fun activities for the young carers

Vicki King and Debbie Weavers on behalf of Southbourne Lions (West Sussex)

Once again thanks to our community's kind donations, plus a generous bursary from the Christian Youth Enterprises (CYE), the Southbourne Lions were able to fund a day of fun activities in the half-term break for the Young Carers from Bourne Community College.

A huge thankyou to all the staff at the CYE for the care and effort they all put into the day to make it really special. The day dawned with fabulous weather so that in the morning the youngsters were able to kayak from CYE to Bosham and then moor up for a picnic on the green, followed by a ball game. They then kayaked back to CYE where they had a swim. The afternoon consisted of archery, climbing and caving. A lovely day enjoyed by all.

Southbourne Lions feel privileged to fund this important time for these young people, who gave us a shout out in their school assembly.

RNLI

Coffee Morning

The RNLI Spring Coffee Morning on Saturday 25 April 2026 was a great success. The Emsworth and Havant Branch raised £967.80 on the day. Thank you to the many members of the public for your very generous donations. We are also very grateful for the generous donations from Tesco Express Emsworth, Tesco Extra Havant and COOK who support our fundraising for the RNLI. The support of Emsworth Slipper Sailing Club providing us with the use of the lovely facilities is very much appreciated.

RNLI at Tesco

Emsworth and Havant Branch of the RNLI did a collection at Tesco, Havant on Saturday 6 June 2026. The team took donations and sold RNLI souvenirs raising a total of £802.11. They would like to thank the many members of the public for their very generous support, and a big thank you to Tesco Havant and their team for giving us this opportunity.

Emsworth and Havant RNLI Branch Quay Sale Saturday 1 August 2026

The Emsworth and Havant Branch will be holding a Quay Sale on Saturday 1 August 2026. The location of the Quay Sale is at the bottom of South Street including within Emsworth Slipper Sailing Club. The event is 9.30 am to 1pm. There will be stalls including RNLI Souvenirs, home produce, 'nearly new', boat jumble and a tombola. Coffee, tea and cake will be available from 9.45am to 11.45am.

New RNLI volunteer fundraisers are very welcome to join us.

As little as one hour of your time two to three times a year can contribute to helping the RNLI save lives at sea. Please contact vivien.alexander@rnligoassemble.com if you would like further information.

Community

Local line dancing classes boost fitness and friendships

Words by Jane Gregory

Do you remember *Boot Scootin' Boogie*? Or more recently, *Texas Hold 'Em* by Beyoncé? Line dancing is alive and well and happening in village halls near Emsworth, thanks to dance teacher Laura Williams from Hayling Island, who also teaches a range of dance exercise classes under the umbrella of Dance Fusion.

Friendly, welcoming and brimming with vitality, Laura brings over 20 years of dance teaching experience alongside a professional background as an industry dancer and singer.

Next year Dance Fusion will celebrate its 10th anniversary. To kick off the milestone celebrations early, five new line dancing classes have been launched across Hampshire and West Sussex, in Hayling Island, Cowplain, Widley, Westbourne and Hedge End, and are more are planned. In addition, there are lower impact dance fitness classes in Hayling Island, Bedhampton, Southbourne, Havant and Widley.

Social dancing offers significant physical gains such as improved cardiovascular health, better balance, and sharper memory. More importantly, the classes serve as vital hubs for community connection. Participants often build lasting friendships, while gaining personal confidence through the joy of dance.

Dance teacher - Laura Williams

Music for the classes ranges from musical theatre, through 60s–90s favourites, and even the Barn Dance and the Charleston. A favourite with participants is the element of ballet, which Laura explains is beneficial because it works different muscles. Line dancing has become fashionable again in recent years, popularised by Beyoncé and Taylor Swift among others, and it's a form of dance that men feel comfortable joining in with as there is no need for a partner. Laura brings a variety of props to make the dancing more fun, such as bells, hats and canes; members of the group vote her 'the best instructor ever.'

People of all ages up to 90+ come to the classes and Laura receives bookings for line dancing at weddings, birthdays, hen parties and charity events. Her aim is to get more people dancing and moving; people recovering from strokes have participated, and even a couple of ladies with Parkinson's disease, who find it improves their happiness and mobility.

Laura says: 'At its core, Dance Fusion thrives on making people smile. We are incredibly proud to provide a warm, supportive, and completely non-judgemental environment where absolutely everyone feels welcome.'

For more information, please contact Laura on 07843 087697, or see www.dancefusion.info Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/dancefusion1/

Citizens Advice Bureau

Citizens Advice Havant volunteers and our newest Citizens Advice Trainee (CAT), Beau, are all out in the community helping people who find themselves in need of advice and support. Every day, local people facing homelessness, debt, benefit problems, family breakdown and rising living costs turn to Citizens Advice for help. Often they come to us feeling overwhelmed, frightened and unsure where to turn next. Thanks to our volunteers, they leave with hope, practical support and a way forward.

We now need your support to help us open a new advice hub so volunteers like Beau can provide a welcoming and accessible service that anyone and everyone can turn to for support with anything.

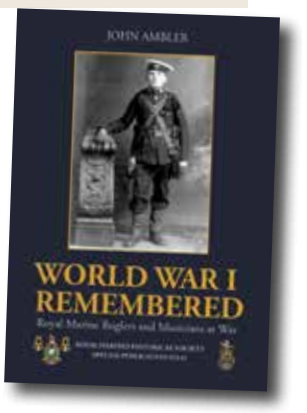
For more than a year, Citizens Advice Havant has been without a permanent home. Despite helping thousands of local people through some of the toughest moments in their lives, we have been operating without a dedicated advice centre of our own.

We now have the opportunity to transform an empty shop in Greywell Shopping Centre into a welcoming community advice hub – a place where anyone facing a crisis can walk through the door and find support, understanding and expert advice. The renovation costs are substantial and as a locally funded charity we really need support through donations to make this home a reality.

Every donation, whether £5 or £500, will help create a safe, accessible space where local people can get free advice when they need it most. With your help, Beau and our volunteers will soon be welcoming local residents into a permanent advice hub in Leigh Park. You can donate at the following webpage www.gofundme.com/f/489rqc-help-us-open-a-new-citizens-advice-hub-in-leigh-park

Our drop-in advice service runs on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month from 10am to 1pm at Emsworth Baptist Church.

King's Birthday Honours List



BEM for nursery worker
A nursery practitioner who has dedicated 38 years of her life to supporting children and their families has been awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM). Jacqueline Burton has worked at the Children's Learning Centre, New Brighton Road, Emsworth for nearly four decades.

MBE for local military historian
John Ambler, Historian, Royal Marines Band Service was awarded the Member of Order of the British Empire (MBE) for voluntary service to Military History. He is the author of several books including *World War One Remembered, Royal Marine Musicians* and *Buglers at War*; *Sea Soldiers of Portsmouth*; *Bagged in World War 2* and *Royal Marines Band Service*.

NAKED PANTRY

Plastic free refillery in the heart of Emsworth

Cooking and baking staples, loose tea, freshly roasted coffee, handmade chocolates, sweet treats, eco beauty, eco household, eco gifts, on tap olive oils and fresh ground peanut butter.

We look forward to seeing you,
Brad and Kharran

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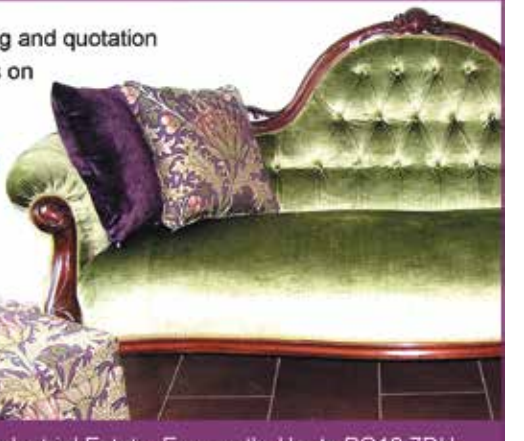

Unit 10. Palmers Road Industrial Estate. Emsworth. Hants PO10 7DH

OBITUARY

Jeanne Werge Hartley (1931 -2026)

Jewellery designer and teacher

Born in Leeds 1931, Jeanne graduated from Leeds College of Art with an NDD in jewellery design in 1952. Joining the wardrobe department of the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden, she created headdresses and masks for the opera and ballet. After marriage to Alan in 1956, Jeanne taught evening classes at Portsmouth College of Art. Children followed - Sarah 1957, Amanda 1960. Jeanne and Alan moved to Maisemore Gardens in 1962.

The Jewellery department flourished, became full time and Jeanne continued to run the department until she retired in 1990. She was also a creative jeweller, exhibiting nationally and internationally, taking on commissions including the silver casket for Sir Alec Rose to contain his Freedom of the City. She also designed the ceremonial Mace for Portsmouth University. Jeanne made pieces with multiple ways of being worn: a wedding headdress that became a necklace and bracelet; earrings in sections that could be added together to make more statement pieces for special occasions; a necklace that when all the sections were combined reached to her waist.

She was made a Freeman of the Goldsmiths' Company and of the City of London in 1986 and was elected to the Art Workers' Guild. Jeanne joined the Society of Designer Craftsmen and became a fellow in 1972 and Chairperson (1976-79). She also sat on the Special Projects committee for Crafts Council and the RSA. The Designer Jewellers Group started in 1975, initially for an exhibition as part of London Fashion week. She organised exhibitions at Goldsmiths' Hall and the Barbican Centre. Jeanne was also a member of the Association for Contemporary Jewellery. In 2001 she wrote *Enamelling on Precious Metals* and she has a brooch in the Victoria and Albert Museum jewellery collection. Jeanne died on 14 April at Springfield Care Home.

Sarah Macrae – daughter

Memorial Garden

Words by Phoebe Atkinson

Almost exactly 20 years ago, the striking sculpture Absence was delivered to an unloved corner of the recreation ground on Horndean Road. A small group of volunteers decided to create a garden around that sculpture where local men lost in action during conflicts around the world could be remembered with dignity.

Today, thanks to their efforts, the space is a lovely, mature garden, where 235 men's names are listed on memorial plaques, and where Emsworth comes together each Armistice Day to be part of the National act of Remembrance.

Of that small group, three continue to care for the garden they helped create all those years ago and it was a delight to see their commitment highlighted in a recent exhibition in Emsworth Museum entitled The Intriguing History of Emsworth Memorial Garden. Sarah Sanderson, Maurice Clarke, and Pam Palmer (L to R) were photographed there when they attended a private view of the exhibition on 29 May.

We can all support the garden by becoming Friends of Emsworth Memorial Garden. It costs nothing. Visit www.friendsofemsworthmemorialgarden.org for more information.

Discover the Hidden World of Nore Barn Woods at Emsworth Museum

Emsworth Museum is proud to host a new family-friendly exhibition created by the Friends of Nore Barn Woods, exploring the history, wildlife and community story of one of Emsworth's most loved natural spaces. The exhibition takes visitors on a journey through the woodland's past and present. From ancient landscapes and local farming history to rare wildlife, migrating birds and fascinating fungi, the display reveals the rich biodiversity found just a short walk from the harbour.

Visitors can discover the hidden lives of stag beetles, bats, eels and orchids, learn about the woodland's delicate balance between people and nature, and explore how volunteers help protect and care for the site today. Designed for all ages, the exhibition also includes interactive 'Mini-Explorer' activities encouraging younger visitors to imagine how plants and animals survive in the woods. Through photography, stories and local research, the exhibition celebrates the beauty, importance and future of this unique coastal woodland. The exhibition will be on display at Emsworth Museum from 18 July until 31 August.

Emsworth Museum is open as follows:
Fridays and Saturdays in August 10:30 am until 4:30 pm
Sundays 1:30 pm until 4:30 pm.
For further information, please contact Emsworth Museum.

Summer Events in the Parish of Warblington with Emsworth

As the warmer months arrive, we're delighted to share a range of summer activities and events for all ages across the community. From relaxed afternoon teas to family fun and a holiday club, there is something for everyone to enjoy in the months ahead.

Teas in the Park
Join us on Wednesday afternoons in June and July from 3:20pm–4:20pm in Emsworth Park, Horndean Road, for Teas in the Park. This relaxed after school get-together runs throughout June and July and offers families a chance to enjoy a drink, snack, and fun games together. As an outdoor event, it's weather dependent, so please keep an eye on updates.

Churchyard Teas
A beloved summer tradition returns at St Thomas à Becket Church, Warblington. Enjoy homemade cakes, tea, and coffee in peaceful churchyard surroundings on Saturdays and Sundays throughout July and August, 2:30pm–4:30pm.

Deep Sea Divers Holiday Club
Our Holiday Club will return for two full days from 25–26 August, with the theme Deep Sea Divers. Children can look forward to games, Bible teaching, and lots of fun. For more information, please contact Jacqui Watson: childrenandyouth@warblingtonwithemsworth.org

United Alpha Course
Local churches are preparing a United Alpha course, offering a welcoming space to explore the Christian faith. More information will follow shortly.

Join us on a Sunday
There's a range of service to choose from, but don't worry if you're not sure where to start – there will always be a service at 10am at St James' and 11am at St Thomas à Becket, every Sunday. Please see our website for full details of all our services and events: www.warblingtonwithemsworth.org

Environment

Grant-Funded Sailing Programme Supports Disadvantaged Young People

Words by Caroline Fisk

The Young Helms Programme, supported by the FatFace Foundation and delivered by Cobnor Activities Centre Trust, engaged 142 young people and 30 accompanying adults and carers in 2026 through sailing experiences designed to build confidence, wellbeing and teamwork.

Delivered across 14 sessions in Chichester Harbour, the programme welcomed participants aged 8 to 30 years from local schools, charities and community groups, many of whom would not otherwise have access to outdoor learning or water-based activities.

Participants took part in half-day keelboat sailing sessions that encouraged communication, resilience and self-confidence while helping young people connect with the blue and green spaces on their doorstep. "Being out on the water made me feel that time had stopped and I relaxed," said a 16 year old pupil from Park Community College, Havant. At the end of the session, groups were provided with a home-cooked lunch, creating space for reflection and positive social connection.

"Being out on the water made me relaxed"

Post-visit surveys highlighted the programme's positive impact:

- 85% of participants reported increased confidence in teamwork and friendships
- 72% reported improved wellbeing after spending time outdoors and on the water

The programme prioritises accessibility and inclusion. This year six state schools, alongside eight local charities and community groups supporting young people with learning disabilities, mental health challenges and refugee or asylum-seeking backgrounds, took part in the programme. For some pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), participation also contributed towards their Year 10 Physical Education qualification, demonstrating the programme's educational as well as social value.

Since launching in 2021 with just 15 participants, the programme has grown significantly, reflecting increasing demand for accessible outdoor opportunities for young people across the region.

For further information, www.cobnor.com or email sail@cobnor.com

160 People Join Paddle-Out Protest for Cleaner Seas

Words by Bianca Carr

More than 160 people gathered on the water and shoreline to take part in Final Straw Foundation's Paddle-Out Protest, held in partnership with Surfers Against Sewage, sending a powerful message that communities across the Solent want urgent action to tackle water pollution.

The event brought together swimmers, paddle boarders, surfers, sailors, families and environmental supporters in a vibrant display of unity and determination. Participants created and carried an array of eye-catching placards and artwork, highlighting the growing public demand for cleaner seas and healthier waterways. The atmosphere was both passionate and positive, with people of all ages coming together to stand up for the ocean and the wildlife, communities and businesses that depend upon it.

Final Straw Foundation would like to thank everyone who attended and helped make the event such a success. Special thanks go to Compass Photography for capturing incredible drone footage of the paddle-out, Koala Marketing for providing photography throughout the event, and Anna and her talented team at Art Invisible for helping create the fantastic artwork and placards that made such a visual impact.

The Paddle-Out Protest forms part of a growing national movement calling for greater transparency, accountability and investment to address water pollution issues affecting our rivers, harbours and coastal waters.

Final Straw Foundation hopes the event will inspire even more people to get involved in protecting the Solent, whether through beach cleans, citizen science, water quality monitoring, conservation projects or future campaigns. Together, we can make waves of change.

Forever chemicals

Words by Natalia Forero, BBC LDRS

'Forever chemicals' have been found across the Solent's marine environment, according to new research led by the University of Portsmouth and the Marine Conservation Society.

The study examined levels of polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) — often referred to as 'forever chemicals' because they do not easily break down in the environment — in waters between Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight.

Researchers analysed samples from surface water, sediments, treated wastewater and marine wildlife including seaweed, crabs, fish and harbour porpoises.

They found PFAS contamination throughout the Solent, with levels of PFOS — one of the most tightly regulated compounds — exceeding UK and EU coastal water safety limits by more than 13 times at the sites tested. Two local wastewater treatment works, Budds Farm in Havant and Peel Common in Fareham, were also found to be releasing a range of PFAS chemicals into the environment through treated wastewater. Together the sites serve around 650,000 people.

The research also identified around 194 combined sewer overflow outfalls and 546 historic landfill sites close to the Solent, highlighting the number of possible pollution sources feeding into the coastal waters. Among the wildlife tested, harbour porpoises showed the highest levels of PFAS contamination, with concentrations in liver tissue far above ecological safety thresholds.

Southern Water said tackling PFAS required action at a national level.

A spokesperson said: "While we're investing heavily in cutting storm overflows, and are removing more and more contaminants through wastewater treatment, the most sustainable solution is to meet the problem at source by changing legislation to restrict or ban certain chemicals and keep them out of pipes and the environment in the first place."

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Oyster boat *Terror* celebrates 20 years of public sailing trips since restoration in 2005

Oyster Boat *Terror* enters the 2026 sailing season celebrating a hugely successful twenty years of operation since being rescued from a rotting wreck by Chichester Harbour Conservancy and successfully restored with a Heritage Lottery Grant.

During this time over 5,000 people have enjoyed the thrill of sailing an 1895 traditional gaff-rigged oyster smack, part of the famous fleet of oyster boats that operated from Emsworth at the end of the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Oyster boat *Terror* is celebrating 20 years of public trips

Since restoration, *Terror* has plied the waters of Chichester Harbour from May to October each year, taking up to six passengers on a two-to-three-hour trip from Emsworth Yacht Harbour, taking in all the wonderful scenery and wildlife that can be found in the National Landscape.

After the success in 2025 of operating *Terror* from Itchenor for two weeks at the height of the season to coincide with the Festival of Chichester, *Terror* will once again be offering two trips a day from Itchenor Jetty between 23 June and 6 July.

These sailings from Itchenor will enable passengers to see a wholly different area of Chichester Harbour, including Bosham, Dell Quay, the Chidham and Thorney Channels, East Head and Hayling Island.

Whichever departure point is chosen, passengers will learn from the crew all about the famous Emsworth oyster trade and its demise in the early 1900s as well as hearing about the abundant wildlife of Chichester Harbour. Passengers are also encouraged to take the helm and experience the thrill of handling the last remaining example of a traditional gaff-rigged working boat, now beautifully restored.

Operated by a dedicated team of volunteers from the charity Friends of Chichester Harbour, every penny of the booking fee goes towards preserving *Terror* for future generations.

Booking a trip on *Terror* is simple. Just go to the website www.oysterboatterror.org.uk and choose the date you want to sail either from Emsworth Yacht Harbour of from Itchenor Jetty.

Funding from Chichester Harbour Friends Enhances Environmental Learning at Cobnor Activities Centre

Words by Caroline Fisk

Cobnor Activities Centre Trust is celebrating the successful refurbishment of its Martin Beale Classroom thanks to generous funding from Chichester Harbour Friends. The funding has transformed the classroom into an engaging and inclusive learning environment that helps young people connect with the wildlife, habitats and heritage of Chichester Harbour National Landscape.

Each year, Cobnor welcomes nearly 4,500 young people through day visits and residential programmes. Visitors include pupils from local primary, secondary and SEND schools, scout and youth groups, young people accessing alternative provision and those experiencing disadvantage through funded programmes.

The refurbishment included a full redecoration of the classroom, the creation of a dedicated Bird Hide Zone equipped with binoculars and bird identification resources, and the installation of interactive and tactile displays designed to support hands-on environmental learning.

The new Bird Hide Zone enables young people to observe wading birds, track tidal patterns and experience seasonal changes across the harbour. These real-time observations help bring learning to life and deepen understanding of coastal ecosystems.

The new resources have proved particularly valuable for young people with additional needs, supporting sensory and exploratory learning approaches that encourage participation and engagement from learners of all abilities.

The investment also helps preserve an important part of Cobnor's history. The Martin Beale Classroom is named after the founder of Cobnor's summer camps in the 1950s and remains central to the charity's educational work today.

Cobnor Activities Centre Trust is extremely grateful to Chichester Harbour Friends for their support. The refurbished classroom will benefit thousands of young people in the years ahead, helping future generations to discover, understand and value the unique environment of Chichester Harbour.

For further information, please visit: www.cobnor.com and www.chichesterharbourfriends.org

92kg of Waste Recovered from Threatened Hampshire Chalk Stream Amid Warnings of 'Ghost River' and Water Scarcity Crisis

Local charities are sparking urgent warnings over the future survival of the River Ems, one of the planet's rarest ecosystems, amidst the water stressed South East.

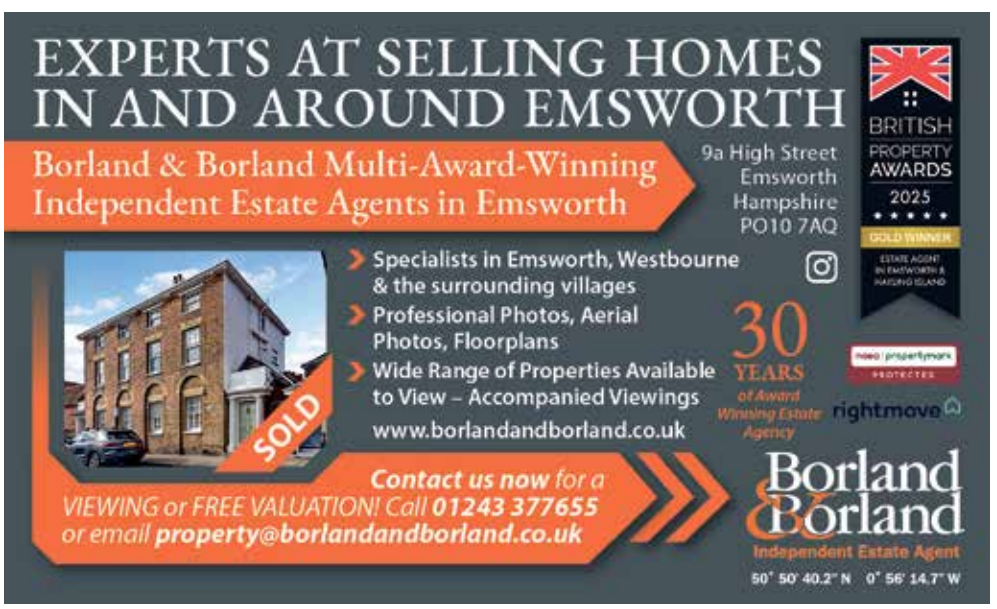
Timed to coincide with the National Great Big Green Week, the Final Straw Foundation, Western Sussex Rivers Trust and Brook Meadow Conservation group, along with 15 local volunteers, came together at Brook Meadow nature reserve. In just three hours, the team cleared a staggering 91.90kg from the River Ems, before it could travel downstream into Chichester Harbour and out into the Solent.

The recovered debris revealed a stark mix of everyday single-use plastics and large-scale fly-tipping, including 45 plastic bottles, 54 glass bottles, 75 aluminium cans, 15 dog toys, a car bumper, a household door, a large gas canister, a kettle, birthday party debris, and a bag of used (yes, used) nappies.

Chalk streams are globally rare, with only 300 in existence worldwide, 85% of which are in the UK. Brook Meadow is a designated Local Wildlife Site providing sanctuary to legally protected kingfishers and the European water vole, Britain's fastest-declining mammal. However, the three organisations are warning that pollution is only half the battle; climate change, never ending regional housing development, and severe water abstraction are threatening to turn the River Ems into a dried-up 'ghost river' during the summer months.

The River Ems serves as a vital ecological river linking the villages of Compton, Walderton, West Marden, Stoughton, Aldsworth, and Westbourne together before entering Emsworth. Everything we do within this catchment, from agricultural practices, gardens and pet flea treatments to domestic water habits, has a direct consequence on the aquifer and ultimately the river.

www.finalstrawfoundation.org



Wemsfest

Words by Mark Ringwood. Email: adwemsfest@gmail.com

News Imminent About UK Town of Culture Bid

In late March this year Emsworth submitted a bid to become UK Town of Culture 2028 and the promise - from Dept of Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) – was that successful bids would be announced in the Spring. However, such were the numbers of applicants that DCMS has had to push back the date of announcement until mid to late Summer. Emsworth's bid was for communities of less than 20,000 inhabitants and consequently also included Southbourne, Thorney Island, and Westbourne – all having a story to tell which is mostly unknown to substantial numbers of incoming residents. Even if the bid is unsuccessful the groundwork will form part of Emsworth 800.

Emsworth 800

A year-long programme of activities celebrating eight centuries since a settlement was first formed on this part of Chichester Harbour. Plans are to build on existing events and feature at least one major event a month and to be as interactive as possible in terms of age and activities. Former Emsworth luminaries including playwright and author PG Wodehouse, and actor Albert Finney, will be celebrated as well as the wealth and spread of the culinary facilities Emsworth has to offer.

Yet Another International Season of Music from WemsFest

Firmly established on the international music touring circuit the September to December season of concerts boasts musicians from Canada, Scotland, England, Gambia, Mali,

An Dannsa Dub

Ireland, Spain, Quebec, Chile, and The Caribbean in eight different venues from Chichester to Portsmouth. September features multi-award winner Lennie Gallant and his band from Prince Edward Island, and funky dubsters An Dannsa Dub from the Isle of Skye.

October starts with popular musician and BBC R6 DJ Tom Robinson, and continues with leading Gambian percussionist Musa Mboob and his band Xam Xam, Anglo-Chilean band Quimantu, folk-stalwarts Fairport Convention, and Malian band leader Habib Koite with Gambian kora player Sura Susso. The shows by Musa Mboob & Xam Xam, and Habib Koite & Sura Susso, are part of Black History Month – a nationwide initiative which WemsFest has supported for several years.

November features a concentrated run of three concerts on consecutive days starting with Irish-Scottish-Manx folk band Imar, Catalonian extroverts El Pony Pisador, and new Scottish upstarts Birdvox. The month concludes with award-winning Blazin' Fiddles from Scotland, and Genticorum from Quebec.

December has two very different shows – the Anglo-Caribbean reggae-ska band Maroon Town, and dyed in the wool folk innovators The Unthanks.

www.wemsfest.com has full details.

10th Emsworth Beer, Cider & Wine Festival Friday 25 to Sunday 27 September

In the recently re-opened Assembly Hall in Emsworth Community Centre the now annual festival has extended opening hours and many award-winning ales to look forward to. Friday 25 September will run as one long session from 2pm to reflect the change in people's working habits when some work only a half-day or not at all. Saturday will also run as one long session from 11am.

Cask-ales are currently being selected to include national award winners alongside obscure micro-brewery ales – none of which will be found in local hostelries. As organiser Mark Ringwood points out, "There's no point in racking ales you can find in your local pub – our festival has always been about offering a wide and eclectic range which is a voyage of discovery and not familiarity. Our choice of ciders will also reflect this and we'll have wines from Woodmancote vintners Bush Wines for those who prefer something lighter".

A bottoms-up tip for the Sunday 12 noon-4pm session is that any remaining ales will be heavily discounted. Proceeds from all WemsFest events go towards supporting music workshops in local schools.

PG Wodehouse Statue Site is Imminent

Progress has been slow but steadily upwards as the team, aiming to site a statue paying tribute to the author and playwright who once lived in Emsworth, continue their quest to achieve this. Favoured locations are either outside The Crown Inn (where he's reputed to have developed many of his characters including Lord Emsworth and Jeeves and written many of his earlier works), or alongside the Millpond.

Tom Robinson

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PROMOTED CONTENT

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Shikha Datta, Head of Family Law

Andrew & Andrew Solicitors Ltd has been providing legal advice since 1956 and is known for its personal, high-quality service. The firm has a strong reputation in conveyancing, Wills and Probate, Contentious Probate, and Personal Injury.

I am the Head of the Family Law Department. I have more than 25 years of experience and advise clients on a variety of family matters, including:

- Divorce and separation
- Financial settlements and asset division
- Child arrangement orders
- Cohabitation agreements and prenuptial/ postnuptial planning

My expertise is helping clients achieve fair, practical outcomes after a relationship breaks down. I chose Family Law because it is an evolving and challenging area of law; every client's situation is unique and each case needs a tailored approach. It is an area of work where no two days are ever the same. When I meet clients, they may be feeling anxious about what the future holds for them and their children. I listen to their concerns, and offer empathetic, practical, solutions-based advice. It is important to have clear communication from the start, guiding clients through the emotional and legal complexities of family law with straightforward and cost-proportionate advice. Where possible, I encourage clients to attend mediation or achieve an agreed outcome with solicitor assistance, without issuing court proceedings. But if court proceedings are necessary, I will be tenacious and robust on your behalf.

Family law is about more than just legal procedures - it is about helping you close one chapter and secure a stable foundation for the next. When I am not in the office or at the negotiating table, you will likely find me chauffeuring my daughter to and from ballroom and Latin competitions around the country, enjoying the theatre and spending time with my family.

If you are navigating a difficult family situation and need supportive legal advice, you can contact me and my team to discuss your situation in a confidential, no-obligation chat. Please visit www.a2solicitors.co.uk or email me directly on sdatta@A2law.co.uk, Tel 023 9267 5538. The initial consultation is free of charge.

The examples below illustrate some of the cases that I have been involved in, which highlight the range and complexity of Family Law.

J Liebermann

If you are navigating a difficult family situation and need supportive legal advice, please talk to us.

- Represented a US citizen. He and his British wife went to trial in Texas, USA. The Judge made a financial Order. His ex-wife (a British citizen) returned to England and obtained permission to pursue a financial settlement here. We proved that his ex-wife had not disclosed all her assets and a minimal award was made by the English court.
- Represented a high-earning husband whose key concern during the financial settlement was protecting post-separation bonuses worth several million pounds.
- Represented a father whose ex-wife applied to relocate their child from England to South Africa. The application was successfully challenged.
- Successfully represented a mother who wanted to return to one of the Scandinavian countries with the children of the family.
- Representing a client who is currently seeking to enforce a financial order from a central African country in England.
- Represented a client who discovered, when trying to divorce her husband, that the marriage was not legally valid. This had significant implications for her financial claims, as cohabitees have far more limited rights than a spouse.
- Represented a gentleman who became seriously ill and required a heart transplant. He received a substantial amount of money under a critical illness policy and wanted to keep those funds separate from the matrimonial assets.

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Business News

Cross Kitchen

Words by Jane Gregory

Sandwiched between Treagust butchers and the Methodist Church is the popular eatery Cross Kitchen, which has been owned and run by Gemma and Steve Cross since 2021.

The building has an interesting history. The decorative bell tower and the elegant arched window provide clues that this was originally a chapel; its official name is the Emsworth Town Hall, although it was never ever used for municipal purposes. The chapel was dedicated to St Peter, and the Square was named after it. The former chapel became a cinema between 1912 and 1953; first as the Town Hall Cinema, showing silent films, then the Pavilion Cinema from 1930. It became a builder's merchant until a serious fire in 1994. It was then converted into a café, re-opening in 1998. It began trading as The Greenhouse Café in 2002, and was briefly renamed The Redhouse Café in April 2015, as part of a promotion led by the comedian Hugh Dennis, to raise money for Comic Relief.

Since The Ems previously reported on Cross Kitchen, Gemma and Steve have added seating and parasols in the courtyard in front of the café. This has proved popular with customers who like to bring their dogs (though there's no smoking or vaping in the courtyard, and dogs aren't allowed in the café). Gemma reveals that the family love the South of France, and the bustling courtyard reminds them of happy holidays spent there.

The couple have three children, Rosie, Daisy and George, plus three 'crazy cocker spaniels' called John, Jim and Wilma. Rosie works as a waitress at weekends and school holidays, and George comes in before school to help set up. Friendly waitress Lou offers a warm welcome. Steve has trained up two apprentices, Mason and Tommy, who are now fully qualified chefs, so Steve is able to take on additional work such as event catering, including at 10 Downing Street. He has also spent around ten years working with Jamie Oliver.

The summer menu includes fresh options such as tomato burrata salad and Cross Kitchen's popular salmon dish, as well 'Cross Ranchos' (flatbread with pico de gallo) for breakfast, or halloumi with guacamole, poached egg and sour cream. Local suppliers are used wherever possible. The café is vegetarian friendly and offers some vegan choices. Gemma's home-made cakes are justly famous, with the Bakewell Blondies a firm favourite.

The team can offer outside catering tailored to individual requirements, and they have hosted special events. To book for breakfast and lunch – phone 01243 940620, email info@crosskitchenemsworth.com or just pop in.

From smugglers' haunt to neighbourhood restaurant

Words by Jane Gregory

The 17th-century Grade II listed cottage in South Street that is home to Fat Olives hides a wealth of fascinating history. A 'smugglers' tunnel' lies beneath the cellar – a reminder of more lawless times, when smugglers used the network of passageways that ran through all the properties, and used the still-existing small north window to light a candle as a signal.

Lawrence and Julia Murphy took over the property in 2000 to open Fat Olives, a well-loved Emsworth restaurant which opens from Wednesday to Saturday for lunch and dinner. It has a loyal local following, some of whom dine here on a regular basis, and some who choose it for a special occasion treat. It's also a destination for discerning diners from farther afield, who come to enjoy Emsworth village and Fat Olives' seasonal menu that features fresh, locally sourced ingredients.

After 26 years they clearly both still love what they do, and continue to have the passion, drive and enthusiasm that they had when they opened. They feel they are lucky enough to work in a wonderful creative industry; their reward comes from customers enjoying their experience. They have a strong and loyal team, with both Jasmin and Mike having worked with them for many years. Jasmin who helps Julia in the restaurant has been with them for 17 years, and helps to create the calm and relaxed atmosphere that envelops you as soon as you walk through the door.

Lawrence and Julia love foraging for fresh produce when it becomes available, and in early summer when wild garlic is abundant, they gather it and use the flowers and buds in seasonal dishes, pickle the flower buds and seedheads, and dry the leaves to create garlic dust. English lamb and asparagus similarly appear on the menu when in season. They describe their menu as 'modern British with a hint of Mediterranean influence'.

They feel that they and the people of Emsworth are very lucky to have a range of different restaurants which offer the community a variety of catering experiences and hospitality. Lawrence and Julia believe their business has evolved with the times, facing many different challenges over the years. These times are more challenging than ever at present; keeping the right balance when energy costs and food prices have risen sharply is demanding, and puts pressure on all small businesses, not just hospitality. However, Fat Olives hopes to continue to provide their popular high-quality offering in a stylish and welcoming environment for many years to come while enjoying a work and life balance.

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Business News

InPost Parcel Locker

In the Spring edition we reported that InPost had installed a parcel locker outside Tesco in North Street without submitting a planning application. When The Ems raised this with HBC we were informed that planning permission was required. However, HBC appear to have backtracked on this and have now issued this statement:

While this type of development generally does not require planning permission, it would benefit from permitted development – Tesco should have submitted a prior notification to the council, which did not occur in this case. This is considered a minor technical breach. Our Planning Enforcement team have asked Tesco to submit a planning application to regularise the situation and have recently issued a reminder.

White Swan, Bosham sold to Emsworth entrepreneur

Facebook

The pub occupies a prominent position on the A259, at the Broadbridge roundabout between Chichester and Emsworth. The White Swan offers a bar and restaurant with approximately 60 covers, external seating for around 30 guests, a three-bedroom first-floor residence, and parking. The pub was sold on behalf of outgoing private owners to local businessman Peter Terry, of Emsworth Heating Limited, who plans to refurbish and reopen.

Peter Terry commented, "We are grateful for this chance to bring a historically important building back into use. It is important we maintain and preserve our historically important heritage. The White Swan Hotel will reopen late summer 2026 to provide a fine dining experience and we look forward to welcoming new and old customers alike."

Queenie bounces back

Queenie's Tearoom is now operating from a mobile site outside WOW Clinic in Westbourne Road, Westbourne.

Property to rent

Holloway Iliffe are marketing Unit 1, Palmers Road Industrial Estate. This is a 1,314 sq ft warehouse-type building which was previously used by JCB Motorcycles. Rental is £1,083 per month. Mary Puppins pet shop had unsuccessfully tried to get planning permission to use this unit as a pet shop.

Property for sale

Fludes are selling a small shop at 26 North St. The 305 sq ft ground floor premises is being marketed for £125,000 freehold. The shop is currently operating as Chalk River, a short term pop up clothes shop and was previously a tattooists. (See above)

Farmers' Market

The market is usually held on the third Saturday of each month from 9 am to 1 pm in the Square. The dates for the next few months are 18 July; 15 August; 19 September.

Facts and figures

Legal minimum wage for over-21s to rise 4.1% in April 2026, from £12.21 to £12.71 per hour, with the wage for 18 to 20-year-olds rising from £10 to £10.85. The rate for those under 18 rises from £7.55 to £8 per hour.

Unemployment figures (May 2026)
Borough of Havant 2,400 (3.3%)
Emsworth 85 (1.6%)
Chichester DC area 2,390 (3.3%)
UK 1,709,200 (3.9%)

Inflation rate
The official consumer price inflation rate as calculated by ONS is 2.8%
In Feb 2021 it stood at 0.4%. www.ons.gov.uk

Emsworth Loves Local Networking Event Brings Businesses Together

More than 50 local business owners and entrepreneurs came together in May for a successful Emsworth Loves Local Small Business Networking Meeting held at The Deck in Emsworth Yacht Harbour.

The event was organised to help local businesses connect, collaborate and grow, while building valuable relationships within the Emsworth community. Attendees enjoyed an evening of conversation, idea sharing and discovering new opportunities to support one another and strengthen the local economy.

Charlotte Markham, Market Planner for Emsworth Loves Local, welcomed guests and spoke about the importance of creating opportunities for small businesses to network and work together. The evening also featured a presentation from Alex Foster at Brent Lodge Wildlife Hospital, charity partner, who shared insights into the incredible work the charity carries out to rescue, rehabilitate and care for British wildlife.

Guests also heard from Louise Edwards of Sandbar Shell Art, who has been a trader and Ambassador with Emsworth Loves Local for the past year. Louise spoke about her experience as part of the Emsworth Loves Local community and the positive impact that local networking and support can have on small businesses. Barbara Carthew was also in attendance and helped make the evening a welcoming and enjoyable occasion for everyone involved.

The event was widely praised by attendees, many of whom commented on the friendly atmosphere, valuable connections made and the opportunity to learn more about other local businesses and organisations.

Following the success of the evening, plans are already underway for another networking event later this year. For updates and details of future events, join the Emsworth Loves Local Small Business Networking Group on Facebook or email charlotte@emsworthloveslocal.uk for more information.

Chalk River Pop up shop gets pushed back by Council

Local businessman and artist Daniel Tidbury tried to promote his North Street clothes shop by using a swing board on the pavement outside his shop. Hampshire CC ordered him to remove the sign as it was seen as obstructing the highway. The story was featured in the Portsmouth News. A local resident has also contacted The Ems about this issue:

Dear Editor

Having read an unbelievable article regarding street furniture and Hampshire County Council I feel I must try get my opinion into the local Press. Honest traders are struggling and Emsworth suffers more than some with a divided shopping area. Outlets in North Street are becoming creative to highlight their presence in order to attract potential customers. One such method is to put a swing board on the pavement, but unfortunately Chalk River has fallen foul of the Hampshire County Council street furniture 'police'. Claiming the sign is a distraction to motorists, they have been ordered to remove it. What a shame these insensitive officials cannot better spend their time by dealing with the speeding motorists going past the station entrance, the illegal parking making pavements a nightmare throughout the village, the regular traffic jams around the A259 roundabout, or even the motorists who are unable to stop at the pedestrian crossing outside Chalk River due to their speed, even when pedestrians are using it. I speak as a victim of everything above. Please, Hampshire County Council, if you are going to get involved within our community, do it where we will all appreciate your time and effort.

Martyn Dickinson, North Street Resident

Arts & Entertainment

By Russell Bramley, Arts Correspondent
Email: russatemsart@gmail.com

HIADS

That first step may seem scary but it can be like opening the curtains to another world

Scouting theatre and events, this notice below made me recall how I first became involved in community theatre, and how the range of opportunities to be involved cover every aspect of theatre not just performing. That first step may seem scary but it can be like opening the curtains to another world where everyone is welcome on and off stage.

So many aspects to theatre - need a New Hobby?

Why not join the team at HIADS and find a great way to learn new (or show off old) talents? It's not only directors and actors that we need, but also all the great folk who sell tickets, look after visitors, can help build and paint sets or make costumes and props, or setup lighting and sound or look after the accounts, do building maintenance, or advertising, social media and websites. Whatever your skill set or whatever you'd like to learn, we're sure to be able to use you. So why not join us.

We may be tucked away at the bottom of Hayling Island, but our current membership come from all over Hampshire and West Sussex.

HIADS - https://www.stationtheatre.co.uk/contact.htm

Wing It Theatrical Society

We Are Looking To Welcome New members.

Back in June 2025 I went to see a show by the then Highbury Players and was struck yet again by the enthusiasm of all involved. Have you always fancied treading the boards? Are you interested in working behind the scenes? Join us in roles like directing, set design, makeup, costumes, or sound and lighting production! Your skills can bring incredible stories to life. Are you passionate about drama? Wing It Theatrical Society are inviting new members to join our vibrant community of theatre enthusiasts. We meet most Mondays at Bedhampton Community Centre, 21 Bedhampton Rd, Havant PO9 3ES from 7:30 PM to 9.30PM.

Membership is just £10 per month!

Beyond our productions, we also host a variety of social events throughout the year, many of which are free or subsidised by the group.

Interested in joining us? Simply email us at: wingittheatricalsociety@gmail.com

All local companies will welcome any help and additional members in any capacity, from seamstresses to programme sellers, from going on stage to helping with scenery or just making the teas. There is so much to do and the theatre family offers a wide range of social interaction. It's also great fun and was, for me, life changing.

St John's Purbrook Ukulele Group

I defy anyone to find a picture of a non-laughing George Formby

Something I have noticed in recent years is the growing number of ukulele groups. Again it presents as a really good 'get involved' opportunity with no pressure or required ability. The St John's group prompts me to suggest you give it a thought. Every group I've ever seen playing seem to be having such fun - and I defy anyone to find a picture of a non-laughing George Formby. Now in its 10th year this church based group advertise the following and whose stated goal is commendable indeed:

'We are a small group who meet every Friday evening at Windsor Court, Ann Crescent just off Elizabeth Road, 7.00 till 8:30 pm. No skills are required and no reading of music either. All you have to do is come along and enjoy yourself making new friends. We play all types of music, so there is bound to be something you will enjoy. Our aim is to take our music out into the community entertaining the elderly and disabled groups free of charge.'

For details contact pat.wootten@outlook.com - website – St John's Ukulele Band, Purbrook

Emsworth Art Group

Why not give it a go? It's not just about painting.

There are long established benefits of how an Art class can improve your life. It can boost creativity and enhance motor skills; provide stress relief; improve communication skills, self-esteem, accomplishment and social connection.

One of many local groups is the Emsworth Art Group, a small friendly group of people of mixed ability. They meet on Wednesday mornings in the Baptist Church at Emsworth Community Centre. The group works in various media and in a wide range of styles and subjects. They have the occasional demonstrations by visiting professional artists and hold two exhibitions each year. Many come for the coffee and chat.

For further information or if you wish to join the group please email info.emsworth.art.group@gmail.com.

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beginners welcome

By Russell Bramley, Arts Correspondent
Email: russatemsart@gmail.com

Arts & Entertainment

Sherlock is at Stansted – *The Hound of the Baskervilles*

I am not even going to compete with the preview summary of what has the feel of a seriously fun event:

'How can one show possibly contain so much action and adventure? Elementary, my dear! The critically-acclaimed Pantaloons Theatre Company present a brand-new riff on the fiendishly famous case. Will detective duo Holmes and Watson discover the deadly secret of the Baskerville family curse before it strikes again? Or are they barking up the wrong tree? Find out in this delightfully inventive show that will have you yelping with excitement and howling with laughter.

Features live music, audience interaction

This delightfully inventive show that will have you yelping with excitement

and more mystery than you can shake a magnifying glass at. Stick that in your pipe and smoke it!'

This is a picnic event - please bring your own food and low back seating/rugs.

Wednesday 5 August 2026 6:30pm - 8:30pm (including interval. Doors from 5:30pm) Walled Garden at Stansted Park, South Entrance PO9 6DU; 02392 412265

The Spring. Bench Theatre presents - *The 39 Steps*

I have seen three shows this year by Bench and each one has been excellent. The depth of talent in this company is deserving of the highest praise. Here they have chosen Patrick Barlow's playful parody of the Hitchcock classic film. The West End and Broadway award-winning four-person adaptation featuring over 150 characters, has, since 2005, played in over forty countries worldwide, winning multiple international awards.

Reviews have described it as part Hitchcock homage, part juicy spy novel, part Monty Python-style farce, plus a dash of good old-fashioned romance. *The 39 Steps* is packed with physical comedy, theatrical trickery and knowing nods to classic cinema. It's slick, silly, suspenseful – and an absolute joy to watch. Of this fast moving play we are advised: 'Fasten your seatbelts. Blink and you'll miss it'. I, for one, will be going safe in the knowledge that Bench will not miss a step.

7.30pm Thu - Fri 10 July; 1.30pm and 7.30pm Sat 7 July; 7.30pm Weds 15- Sat 18 July. £14, £13 concessions - 56 East St, Havant PO9 1BS - 023 9247 2700

Fareham Live - *Dial M For Murder*

Fri 17 - Sat 18 Jul 2026

Can anyone resist a Hitchcock classic. Long before the 1954 film starring the wonderful Grace Kelly was released this was a stage smash hit. The suspense thriller tells the tale of ex-tennis pro Tony Wendice (Ray Milland) who wants to have his wealthy wife, Margot (Grace Kelly), murdered so he can get his hands on her inheritance. One phone call. One perfect plan. One fatal mistake. I've seen the film many times and every time it grips me.

The review stating, 'Don't miss this masterclass in suspense that inspired the adaptation

One phone call. One perfect plan. One fatal mistake.

of a cinematic masterpiece. *Dial M for Murder* is a tour de force of psychological tension' is not overstated, and at a new theatre with good all round seating and ample nearby parking, a trip to Fareham will be well worth the effort.

For ticket info call 03433100022 Osborn Rd, Fareham PO16 7DB

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Express FM awards

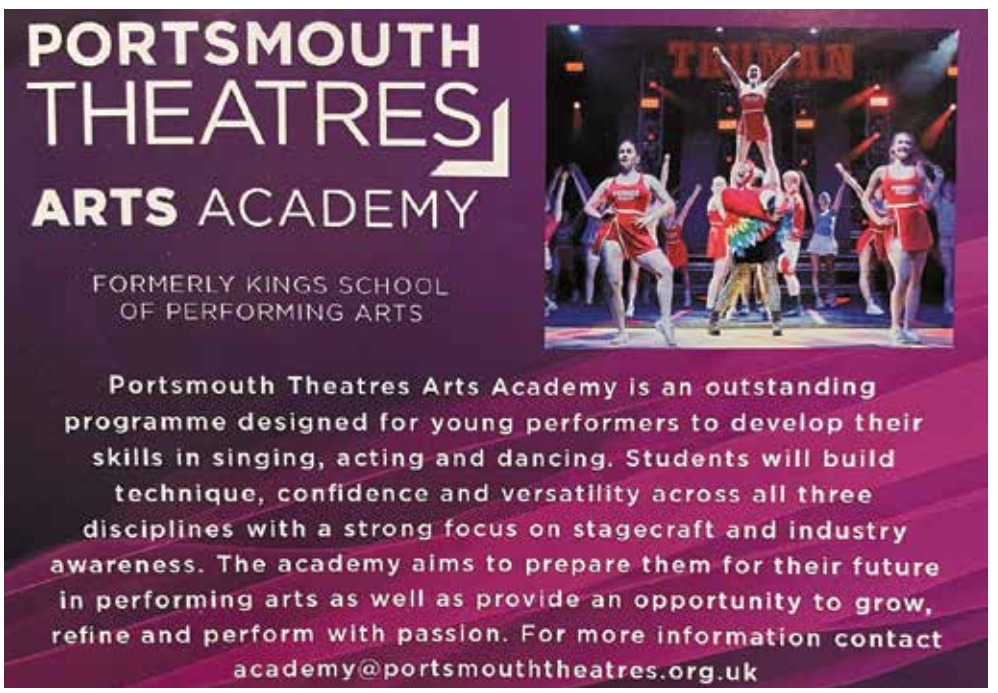
Everyone on every level deserves recognition

Celebrating the vibrant world of amateur dramatics in Hampshire, and brought to you by Express FM, in partnership with The Kings Theatre, Portsmouth, The Spotlight Awards is a brand-new event shining a light on the incredible talent within the local amateur theatre scene.

We want to recognise excellence, dedication and creativity in all areas of production, both on and off the stage. Whether you're part of a full-scale musical or an intimate studio play, this is your chance to step into the spotlight. Submit a Production for Consideration. If your amateur dramatic company is based within the PO postcode area, and you're staging a production between May 2026 and 30 April 2027, you are eligible to enter.

Judges will be assigned to attend your production and provide a professional, impartial evaluation. Please note: complimentary tickets will be required per production, which will be arranged closer to the performance date.

All entry details can be found at www.expressfm.com/spotlightawards/2027



Youth & Schools

Celebrating Creativity: Emsworth Primary School Art Week

Words by Beth Driver, Emsworth Primary School

Emsworth Primary School was transformed into a vibrant celebration of creativity and community during its Art Week in May, culminating in its very own Art Trail around the school at the end of the week.

Inspired by the beauty of the local area and the wealth of artistic talent nearby, pupils worked alongside local creatives to produce an exciting and diverse collection of artwork. Each year group took part in a hands-on workshop led by a different artist, exploring techniques and ideas rooted in their surroundings. The results included patterned local wildlife paintings, 3D paper flower displays, decoupage shells, cherry blossom paintings, paper collages of Emsworth Mill Pond and mixed-media prints.

For many children, it was a rare opportunity to learn directly from practising artists, building confidence, discovering new skills and experiencing the joy of creative expression first-hand. One pupil, Anouk from Year 5, said: "I loved Art Week! Before, I was never proud of my work, but doing the workshop with Jennie made me realise my talent."

The Art Trail welcomed families into the school to explore the transformation and to follow a trail with each classroom revealing a new burst of colour, texture and imagination. They met some of the artists, who shared insights into their work.

"I'm never going to stop doing art!" Hunter

The school collaborated with Bec Hopkins, Allan Davies, Jennie Farmer, Grace Dridge (Grace Makes That), Susannah Greenwood (I Heart Art Club), Natalie Hauser (Craft and Canvas Creative Workshops) and Lou Edwards (Sandbar Shell Art).

More than an exhibition, the Art Trail was a celebration of imagination, designed to inspire the next generation and demonstrate how creativity can bring a community together. As Hunter from Year 2 put it: "I'm never going to stop doing art!"

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Youth report

Words by Ellie Turnbull, ERF lead on Youth

Fun in the park

Get ready all pupils in years 6 to 11 to join us in Emsworth Recreation Ground during the summer holidays. You will be able to play pickleball/short tennis, dodgeball, team games and have a go at non-contact boxing. A full programme of activities will be available nearer the time. The activities will be run by coaches from Horizon Leisure who have a lot of experience in organising these activities.

The events will be run on 5, 12, 19 and 26 August between 10am and 1pm. The cost per day is £5.00. We are able to keep the cost down thanks to a very generous grant from the Friends of Emsworth Community Health (FECH) and volunteers giving up their time.

To book a place text 07845 651351 or just turn up. Further information can be requested from youth.erf@gmail.com

Young people gardening and barbecue

We are in the early stages of planning to work with the Emsworth Community Garden to introduce young people to some gardening and learn more about where their food comes from. They will probably make scarecrows which is always fun and they will be rewarded at lunchtime with a barbecue. These events are likely to be in the summer holidays. Details will be available from Emsworth Community Centre nearer the time.

Unsplash

Young Quilters

Our young Quilters have been very busy making a quilt of wonky houses. They all designed their own 12-inch wonky house block, cut out the material and made it up. The next step was to put a sashing on the sides, add some wadding on the back and quilt it. Then one afternoon they attached them to the block of their neighbour. The finished quilt will be on display at Bourne Quilters summer show in the Community Centre on 25 -26 July. It will then be sent to be displayed at the Festival of Quilts in Birmingham in August.

Unsplash

At another workshop they made a backpack bag which they were vey proud to take home. It is very rewarding to see how their skills are developing and our volunteer helpers enjoy passing on their skill and hopefully we will have a new generation of quilters.

Lift Off takes to the water

Verity Tilley, Lead Teacher

Pupils and staff at Lift Off have enjoyed teaching sessions with the experts at Emsworth Slipper Sailing Club. For many, this was the first time they had tried a water sport.

They have been out on the Town Millpond on the Walker bays and tried both rowing and paddling. This is a huge success and pupils developed coordination skills and built confidence getting in and out of a boat and being out on the water.

Pupils recently went out on long boats in Emsworth harbour with the rowers. It was a windy day and rowing was hard, but again pupils developed their resilience and worked as part of a team to move and steer the boats.

Some pupils really enjoyed the choppy waters, especially when staff were the ones being splashed.

On days when sailing wasn't possible due to poor weather conditions, pupils practised sailing by learning how to control the sail in a small sailing boat. They have also completed theory sessions about power boats which they will experience in a few weeks.

Everyone has really enjoyed these sessions and Lift Off extends huge thanks to Dave Cooper, John Harris-Burland and their many colleagues at Emsworth Slipper Sailing Club for their generous time and input.

In return it has been great to see pupils' confidence grow each week. Meeting lots of new people has been daunting for many of them but they have shown resilience and determination and a keenness to do more!

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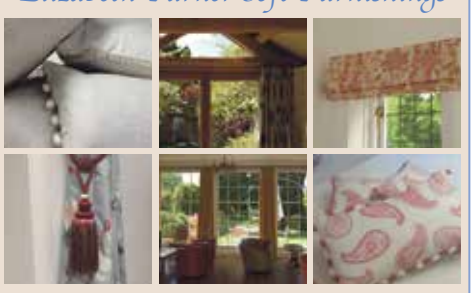

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Emsworth Show – Bank Holiday Monday 31 August

SHOWGROUND OPEN 10.30 AM TO 5PM THORNEY ROAD

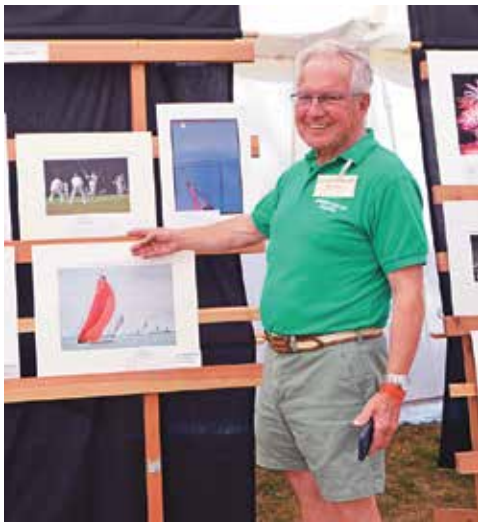
Emsworth Show is back for another year and if you've never been, this is a great year to make your first visit! The show has been running for over 100 years. Originally it would have been a showcase for produce grown by the local villages and in 1920 was held at Victoria Road Allotments. Now it is based at The One Church in Thorney Road.

At the heart of everything is the EHS Horticultural Marquee, run by Emsworth Horticultural Society, and on August Bank Holiday Monday it is visited by 99% of those attending the show. It's where the community's growers, bakers, makers and photographers bring their finest work from prize dahlias and wonky carrots to cakes, preserves, floral arrangements, arts and crafts, and photography. It's genuinely impressive, and far more accessible than you might think. Entries are open to everyone, EHS members and non-members alike, with novice and fun classes for first-timers. There are even classes for children from age four upwards. Think vegetable animals, tray gardens, cupcakes and home-grown tomatoes. Download the schedule at emsworthshow.co.uk , use the QR code below or collect one from Bookends, Emsworth Hardware and Mary Puppins, and you might just find yourself and your kids tempted to enter. Even that wonky carrot could win the fun section! Enter a category and keep our community alive. [Deadline for entries is 23 August.]

Of course beyond the marquee, there's a full day of arena entertainment, including the popular Mary Puppins dog show, with classes for all breeds. There is a Band Tent and 70-plus stalls selling crafts, baked goods and local produce, and plenty of food traders to keep everyone going. There is free parking on site, or hop on the courtesy bus which stops right across Emsworth. Please note that this year, because of building work on site, the bus will not be turning into the show ground so anyone with accessibility issues is advised to use alternative arrangements. As usual there is also no parking along Thorney Road during the show.

Scan the QR code to download the show marquee schedule and find your class to enter this year!

Early bird tickets on sale now at **emsworthshow.co.uk** – just £5.50 until 1 August; £7.00 on the gate. Children 12 and under enter free. Carers free (ticket required) if accompanied by a paying disabled adult.



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Part 30: Rowlands Castle – Finchdean Circular Walk (4 miles)

Words by Lupo, photographs by Juliet Walker

We dogs were driven to Rowlands Castle recreation ground, so Callie, Charlie and I were fully expecting to be chasing a ball; instead we went into the countryside and almost had a bull chasing us! First we had to walk along a few streets to leave the village. Once past the modern houses, we arrived at the quiet world of an old farmstead (Wellsworth Lane) then plunged straight into fields and farmland (Staunton Way/Sussex Border Path). We were off lead, on a broad path through corn, and ready to enjoy an exciting day. We had to be a bit patient with the humans though, because they were using 25 year old instructions. There was much consultation of the original route and a modern map, for some things had moved or disappeared completely which caused a bit of confusion at times but made it more of an adventure.

The next settlement we came to, after the cornfield and a section of steep lane, was Finchdean. What's more, our way led close to a pub (The George), but we were too early to go there. After some difficulty in finding a very narrow, root-filled path between high hedges, we emerged at a railway bridge which led us towards an enticing hilly field, but first there was an obstacle to overcome in the shape of a notice saying 'Bull in field', with a picture of a fearsome ring-nosed creature. Our owners wondered what we should do. Was there really a bull there? If so, was he fierce? We scoured the ground for evidence of cow pats, but all looked clear, so in we went - gingerly and on leads - and hoped for the best.

The next landmark was a farmyard at the top of a hill (South Holt Farm). There was no sign of life but there was a baffling barrier called a cattle grid, though Callie and Charlie cleverly realised they could walk round the outside of it. We had also been a bit uncertain about negotiating the many wooden stiles which we were expecting to meet on our route, but they had all been replaced by metal kissing gates. These might be faster to get through but are not straightforward. They clank noisily; you have to be careful not to get stuck on the wrong side of them, and there is no kissing.

Leaving the farm we followed a track which went downhill then steeply up before reaching houses and a road at Forestside. Here we had to walk very carefully for a short distance with no pavement while searching for a footpath on the other side of it.

We took the first one, which didn't look promising, and soon found we were in sheep territory. We could tell this because they had decorated the fences and thistles with their wool. We were kept on short leads till the Staunton Way sign reappeared, to our owners' relief, and led us into a copse. The path then disappeared into a wilderness of brambles and nettles, but we intrepid five persevered only to arrive at a field with a large, horned beast in it! Was this the bull at last?

He was busy munching grass and we were tired, so we ignored each other and, mustering some speed, carried straight on to the edge of Stansted Forest at Rowlands Castle, emerging close to the welcoming Castle Inn. Here we relaxed on the cool stone floor while our owners enjoyed their tasty lunch.

(With many thanks to Angela Baldry for giving me an old cutting from The News with details of this route. JW)

Havant Camera Club

Print and Projected Image of the Year Competition

The season ended on a high note with the Print and Projected Image of the Year Competition. The winner was Brian Sykes with *Oh to be Free*, an excellent composition of a Secretary Bird. 1st and 2nd awards went respectively to Gary Barrows with his image *Nesting Social Flycatcher* and Barry Day with *Entertaining on the Platform*. Kay Taylor and Steve Frost also received Highly Commended awards.

Print of the Year was won by Carrie Davidson for her monochrome image *School Days*, showing fun and mischievous youngsters captured in a Chinese School. 1st and 2nd places were awarded respectively to Eric Clark for *The Last Smoke Before Silence* and Dave Young for *Eilean Donan Castle Late Evening*. Highly Commended awards went to Erich Poole and Nigel Tay.

School Days, Carrie Davidson

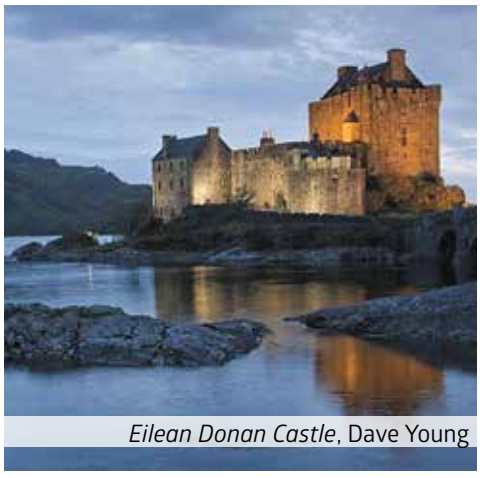
Nesting Social Flycatcher, Barry Day

Summer Programme
The Summer evening programme is now underway with trips planned to Southsea, Butser Hill, Bosham and Arundel. Full details are available on the website.

Emsworth Show
HCC will be represented at Emsworth Show with an excellent display of members' own work. Pop in for a chat and meet some of our members.

New Season
Our new season will commence on Tuesday 8 September; full details are available on our website. New members are especially welcome and whatever your level of ability you will be made very welcome.

www.havantcameraclub.co.uk



Eilean Donan Castle, Dave Young

Entertaining on the Platform, Barry Day

The Last Smoke Before Silence, Eric Clark

Oh to be Free, Brian Sykes

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Working to protect and improve local NHS services

Work continues on my campaign to restore diagnostics services at Oak Park Community Clinic in Havant. This is part of my wider campaign to protect and improve local NHS services, which has included successfully delivering the new Emsworth Medical Practice.

Vital services such as X-rays and scans were suddenly withdrawn from Oak Park at the end of 2025 without any consultation. Patients were told they would have to travel to St Mary's Hospital in Portsmouth instead. I raised the issue in Parliament and launched a petition to bring back diagnostic services at Oak Park. I got Health Minister Stephen Kinnock to confirm that Portsmouth Hospitals University NHS Trust was preparing to recommence non-obstetric ultrasound at Oak Park after an additional scanner was purchased.

But I'm continuing to call for full diagnostic services to be reinstated because I believe strongly that healthcare provision should be local and accessible, particularly for sick, elderly and vulnerable people who struggle to travel. To sign my petition, please go to www.alanmak.org.uk/OakPark

I was delighted to speak at the official re-opening of the Assembly Room at Emsworth Community Centre following the fire that broke out in March last year.

Alan Mak spoke at the official re-opening of the Assembly Room at Emsworth Community Centre

It's great to see it finally back in operation. I know the local community really pulled together to get the building re-opened to once again host a variety of activities.

I've proposed a new law to expand Britain's network of Banking Hubs so that customers in towns and villages such as Emsworth have more access to face-to-face banking services. The town now has no physical bank branches left, but has been rejected for a Banking Hub - where multiple banks operate from a shared counter/premises to offer wider services than deposits and withdrawals - because of the current narrow criteria. I spoke in the House of Commons to introduce my In-Person Banking Services Bill, which aims to build on the success of my campaign to deliver a Banking Hub in Havant town centre. Under current rules, communities are often deemed to have sufficient banking provision if there is access to cash, for example a Post Office or cash machine within 1km of the local high street.

My Bill would change the law so access to face-to-face banking services would have to be considered when deciding where Banking Hubs can open.

The best ways to stay up to date with the work I'm doing as your local MP all year round are to follow my social media accounts, especially Facebook (www.fb.com/AlanMakHavant), and sign up for my weekly residents' email community news update at www.alanmak.org.uk/newsletter.

Alan Mak MP, Member of Parliament for the Havant Constituency

Would you like to go on a tour of Parliament and meet me for a Q&A session? Please register your interest at www.alanmak.org.uk/Tours

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Heritage

Inns, Highwaymen, and Shambolic Roads

Words by Mike Blatch of www.emswalk.co.uk

At its peak Emsworth was home to three coaching inns. The oldest is The Crown, formally known as The Three Crowns. The other two coaching inns were The Black Dog Inn (1711) in the square, now Spice Village, and The Dolphin Inn (1820) on Queen Street, which is now a residential property next to Dolphin Quay by the small footpath. The Three Crowns was listed under The Hearth Tax of 1664. This tax was introduced by Charles II as a fair way to tax properties according to the number of fireplaces they could afford. Interestingly, of the 52 properties in Emsworth at the time, 21 were deemed too impoverished to pay. The town was yet to boom.

It is probably fair to assume that the road between Chichester and Portchester was in better condition under the Romans than it was for the following 1,300 years after they left. Except for a few main routes maintained by the Crown, responsibility for road maintenance seemed to range from the church, monasteries and landowners in the medieval period to parish councils in Tudor times and beyond. Most roads were basic mud tracks with flints, chalk and gravel used to repair holes. In cities and prominent towns stones or cobbles were sometimes used. However, travelling by road was not for the faint hearted as it was uncomfortable, slow, and, if highwaymen were lurking, dangerous.

Emsworth's roads were in very poor condition. They were often muddy, wet, narrow and in winter sometimes impassable for larger wagons. In 1663 The Turnpike Trust Act was passed in parliament to improve the road network by raising money in tolls. The trusts were run by appointed trustees who oversaw the introduction of toll collections along the route. Emsworth was unaffected by the Turnpike Trusts until 1762 when an Act of Parliament was passed that decreed the widening and renewal of Emsworth's roads in preparation for stagecoaches to run from Cosham to Chichester. Toll gates were duly erected at Bedhampton, Nutbourne and Fishbourne. Although popular with the business community, stagecoach companies and landowners, a lot of locals saw them as an unwelcome expense. The first stagecoaches used the improved Emsworth roads in 1762.

Highway robbery

In the 1700s travelling by road could be dangerous. Historically the roads were narrow and it was easy for highwaymen to hide in the dense cover nearby. As far back as the 13th century efforts were made to reduce the risk. In 1285 The Statutes of Winchester enacted that roads between market towns should be cleared to a width of 200 feet to reduce the risk of surprise attacks and give the coachmen time to ready themselves to repel the threat. In 1772 the government introduced the death penalty for any person caught armed and disguised on the roads or surrounding areas.

Jack Pitt

Emsworth's roads were, for a while, the hunting ground of Jack Pitt, a notorious local highwayman. Pitt lived at Lordington but preyed on the Havant Road. He was described as a fine figure of a man and played cricket for a local team. At over six feet he had a commanding presence. Pitt was often suspected of being a highwayman but escaped justice until finally being arrested and identified after a robbery. He was tried in 1807 and hanged on Southsea Common.

The three coaching inns

Of Emsworth's three coaching inns, The Three Crowns was regarded as the most up-market, the largest and busiest. The establishment was bought by John King, Emsworth's famous shipbuilder, in 1789 and he rebuilt the front of the inn, adding a portico and replacing the old sign with three crowns to one with a single crown. Having three prosperous coaching inns was good for Emsworth's businesses. Passengers bought local goods and the inns bought food, ales and provisions as well as providing extensive employment. Bar tenders, waiting staff, cooks, chamber maids, ostlers (managing the horses), stable boys and bookkeepers were all part of the mix.

John Riley - The Weiss Gallery

The Dolphin was a coaching inn with a blacksmith operating on site

The Crown was a reputable and recognised coaching inn along the route to and from Cosham to Chichester, Brighton, London and beyond. The Black Dog had a rowdy reputation and whilst being an inn with stables provided next door, it was probably more popular with individual travellers and groups rather than the established operators. The Dolphin was built in 1820 and was a coaching inn with a blacksmith operating on site. Whilst it didn't enjoy the same status as The Crown, it was more genteel than The Black Dog.

Emsworth was booming in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The town had a thriving oyster and fishing business, shipbuilding yards, rope walks, sail makers, six mills (at its peak) and numerous supporting trades and businesses as well as all the merchants and services to support a growing population. The addition of the coaching inns would have given the town a buzz and energy that we can only imagine today.

King Charles II taxed properties according to the number of fireplaces they could afford.

Emsworth's roads were, for a while, the hunting ground of Jack Pitt, a notorious local highwayman.

Emsworth Bowling Club

Having opened their gates to the new season in April, Emsworth Bowling Club held two highly successful open days in May.

The weather could not have been more different proving the commitment of existing and new members to enjoy the game come rain or shine. The club was delighted to welcome one such visitor called Arthur, who at just 4 years old, clearly had a love for the game. The club President, Roger Mills, produced an indoor set of bowls for Arthur who then happily set to play with mum and Roger joining the fun. The club is renowned for its community spirit and inclusion. Members hope that more young people can be encouraged to take up the game and will be most welcome.

Mid-June saw the club's customary President's Day. The green came alive as the jack was sent out and the participants then laid down their first bowl from the edges of the green to see who would start the afternoon roll up. Being new to bowling terms, I learnt that this process is termed 'The Spider'. The winning shot of the day came from Phil Tamba after a three person tie. The members then relaxed over an enviable American Supper in glorious sunshine with a full scale raffle to end the afternoon. A large donation was raised for the President's chosen charity – The Guildhall School of Music and Drama Trust. A total of £326 will be devoted to a Scholarship appeal for a Production Arts student starting in 2027.

The club finals weekend takes place on 15/16 August with the bowling 'Olympics' on 27 September when the green is officially closed. Club members are aware of their good fortune to have such a well maintained facility in an ideal location.

Anyone interested in joining the club is welcome to these events or regular weekly sessions - see the website for club opening times: www.emsworthbowlingclub.com.

"The jack was sent out and the participants laid down their first bowl from the edges of the green to see who would start the afternoon roll up. This process is termed 'The Spider'."

An Emsworth author revisits the life and work of Bob Dylan

Words by Jane Gregory

For Emsworth author Colm Larkin, Bob Dylan has been 'Number One' since he was a teenager. As a confirmed fan, Colm has attended many of Dylan's live performances over the past ten years. In the late 2000s he received a new Dylan studio album to review. It was entitled *Modern Times*, and reinvigorated Colm's interest in the legendary singer to such an extent that he determined to document Dylan's career, with the aim of retelling the story from a modern perspective. The result was a book published this year – *Dylan Revisited: Busy Being Born (1960–66)*.

Colm explains that the intriguing title references a quotation from one of Dylan's songs; 'He who is not busy being born is dying' (It's *Alright, Ma* [1965]).

The striking cover was created by a friend of Colm's, French artist and illustrator Malika Favre. It was originally used as the cover for the issue of the New Yorker Magazine that featured Dylan's award of the Nobel Prize for Literature, and Colm recalls how he wrote the book with a large print of this image looking down on him from the wall of his office.

The typographical design of the internal pages has been provided by Daniel Tidbury, also of this parish; see The Ems, Spring 2026. And as always, the community in Emsworth has been supportive; you can find the book on sale in the village in both Harbour Records and Bookends. Colm's aim in the book was to tell the story through Dylan's concerts and recordings as well as through other famous people around him, such as Joan Baez and Pete Seeger. It will appeal to the long-term fan who wishes to know more, but also makes a good start for anyone new to Dylan's work.

Colm works as a freelance brand strategist and copywriter, and lives in Emsworth with his wife Zoe, a sustainability director, and two children. Their son goes to Emsworth Primary School and their daughter attends Bourne Community College. The family also have a much-loved hamster.

For more information, please see www.colmlarkin.me, or www.dylanrevisited.com You can also follow Dylan Revisited on social media: X @dylanrevisited, Bluesky @dylanrevisited.bsky.social, Instagram @dylan.revisited

'An artist has got to be careful never really to arrive at a place where he thinks he's at somewhere. You always have to realise that you're constantly in a state of becoming. And, as long as you can stay in that realm you'll be sort of alright.' Bob Dylan

Emsworth Community Centre

The Regular Activities are still going well and include, Yoga, Pilates, Dance, Art, Choirs and many more. If you fancy starting a new activity or want to extend an existing activity there is always room for more. Room hire still starts from £11.08 an hour.

Parties and Special events can be booked with us at very reasonable prices.

www.emsworthcommunitycentre email on info@emsworthcommunitycentre.org.uk or call us on 01243 373805 10:00 -14:00. We are located behind the Fire Station on North Street, Emsworth, through the public car park into Emsworth Community centre's private carpark.

Baby time and Rhyme time in the library are still going strong.

Baby time: every Tuesday; 10:00am - 11:00am

A free fun play session for babies up to 1 year old accompanied by parents/carers

Rhyme time: every Thursday; 10:00am to 10.30am

Suitable for very young children and their parents/carers. Our Rhyme time sessions involve a mix of songs, nursery rhymes and musical instruments for coordination, language and maths skills, communication, and socialisation.

Galley Café will be closed for the Summer Break; however, if you would like to meet at the café with friends, we have the facilities for you to help yourself to tea and coffee and leave a donation.

Tech Aid is also finishing at the end of June for the Summer break and will restart in September. We will be introducing a new process, asking people to book a 20-minute slot with our technicians and we will be including advice and information on AI and scamming.

The Centre Cinema

Films for a Fiver - The Films for a Fiver finish in July 2026 and the next set of films will be starting in September 2026. You will be notified of the list and dates in the EMS and in the Community Centre.

Events for July – Sept

Our Annual Summer Tabletop (craft Fair) sale. This will be held on 18 July and will include all the favourite traders, cakes and bakes, produce and plants, preserves, candles, jewellery and more. Free entry

We have our AGM on 17 Sept. Everyone is welcome to attend and there will be Refreshments after the meeting.

Forget me not Cinema

I want to share with you an exciting new event that Right at Home is running in partnership with Emsworth Community Centre. The film showings for our new 'Forget Me Not' cinema are here on the last Friday of the month at 1.30pm. The cinema is very relaxed, designed for those living with dementia and their carers so you can enjoy the experience without worry. Free ice cream and refreshments will be available at the half time interval. There is a small charge of £5 per couple (to pay for the royalties). Tickets can be purchased from the Community Centre office or online.

Other future film dates for your diary include:

Fri 31 July: *The Sound of Music*; 1.30 – 4 pm

Emsworth Residents Forum

Letter from the Chair

Words by Dwynwen Stepien,
Chair of the Emsworth Residents Forum

Heatwave Highlights the Need for Joined-Up Community Action in Emsworth

As we experience another intense heatwave, the impact on daily life is becoming impossible to ignore. Extreme temperatures are no longer rare events; they are part of a changing climate that affects everyone, but especially older residents, people with health conditions, families in poorly insulated homes and those without access to cool, green spaces. These moments remind us how important it is for our town to work together.

Emsworth already has a strong network of community and environmental groups — from the Residents Forum and the Community Centre to the Horticultural Society, Final Straw Foundation, churches, neighbourhood groups and the Community Garden. Each contributes something valuable. But the challenges brought by heatwaves, flooding and rising energy costs may increasingly require a more coordinated approach.

A powerful example of what this could look like is PeCAN (Petersfield Climate Action Network). PeCAN brings together local organisations, volunteers, environmental groups and residents to share resources and deliver practical support. They run warm hubs, repair cafés, community energy advice, wellbeing checkins and neighbourhoodlevel resilience planning. Their success comes from one simple idea: no single group can do everything, but together they can achieve far more.

Could Emsworth could adopt a similar model? During a heatwave, a joined-up network could identify vulnerable residents, publicise cool spaces, share advice on keeping homes safe, and mobilise volunteers to deliver water, fans or simple cooling equipment. Environmental groups could help expand shade, planting and biodiversity to naturally cool the town. Local businesses could offer rest spots or refill points. None of this requires new structures — just better coordination. PeCAN does have funding so a paid member of staff makes a difference.

Although the Forum has tried before to bring groups together, this weather highlights the urgency for better coordination, especially where more vulnerable people are concerned. Whether or not Emsworth becomes a Town Council, surely this kind of collaboration is possible? A parish or town council could help coordinate and support it, but the real strength lies in the community itself. Emsworth has the passion, the skills and the community spirit. By working more closely together, we can build a safer, more connected and more climateresilient town for everyone who lives here.

On Monday 19th October the Forum is holding a workshop aimed at exploring these ideas and perhaps taking the first steps towards a more formal network. We hope to have a speaker who will explain how PeCAN began. Contact Dan Grove (d.m.grove@outlook.com) if you are interested, or see the Autumn Ems for more details.

P.S. The National (People's) Emergency Briefing film has been shown three times in Emsworth. Based on the contributions of 10 experts, it presses the urgency of climate change and its effect on the natural world which we all depend on. If you have not had the chance to see it, go to https://www.nebriefing.org/screening-map to find a forthcoming screening in this area.

Emsworth Residents Forum

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The Ems is a member of the ICNN, which is part of the School of Journalism, University of Cardiff. ICNN is the UK representative body for the independent community and hyperlocal news sector. They exist to promote the interests of community and hyperlocal publishers and to champion new sustainable forms of local digital and print journalism. Their focus is at the local and hyperlocal level; the place where journalism is most valued, but also most at risk.

BBC LOCAL NEWS PARTNERSHIP
The Ems is an official partner and receives content produced by the BBC Shared Data Unit, BBC News Hub and the Local Democracy Reporting Service.

WEBSITE/SOCIAL MEDIA
ERF website: www.emsworthresidentsforum.org.uk

Facebook page: www.facebook.com/emsworthresidents

Current and back copies of The Ems can be viewed at: https://archive.org/ Input Emsworth Residents Forum into the search box of this website.

Please note that we have no connection with any other Emsworth websites or social media outlets.

EDITORIAL
Please send letters, press releases and news items to David Harris, Editor: editor.theems@outlook.com; Tel 01243 378215 or by post to the Community Centre address – see above. The editor reserves the right to edit any submitted material.

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If you have a complaint about any aspect of The Ems please contact the editor. A copy of our complaints procedure can be obtained from our website.

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ERF PUBLIC MEETING DATES
See ERF monthly newsletters for details of future meetings.

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Emsworth Community Garden

We now have around 30 volunteers enjoying the social space, open air and opportunity to grow a wide variety of fruit and vegetables provided in Emsworth Community Garden. The polytunnel now has its own automatic irrigation system and most of the seedlings that germinated earlier in the year have now been planted out. As well as the more traditional vegetables grown on allotments a couple of volunteers are growing Zimbabwe white maze and sugar cane. Something a bit different! We also have a dedicated vegan area where kabocha squash is growing, and this year for the first time we have an area dedicated to growing dahlias. We've already been harvesting broad beans, strawberries, raspberries and mangetout with much more to come as the season progresses.

We received monetary donations to support the garden from the Waitrose Green Token scheme, from the GMB Union, and a local resident moving house donated her large garden shed. This had to be dismantled by the volunteers and now awaits reassembly in the garden.

This month we held our first volunteers' social evening at Emsworth Sports and Social Club. We received a lot of positive feedback from the volunteers about how friendly, supportive and welcoming the group is, and how much has been achieved in relatively short time. Inexperienced gardeners say they have learned a lot and there is always friendly help at hand when needed. We plan to hold these social evenings monthly going forward.

If you would like to join us, please contact Kathy Parker on WhatsApp (07415 378564) or just pop along on Wednesday afternoon or Saturday morning.

ERF AGM 2026

The 2026 AGM was held on Thursday 11 June at Emsworth Community Centre.

After the introductions, apologies and agreeing of the minutes of the 2025 AGM, ERF Chair Dwyn Stepien handed over to ERF Secretary Mike Ridley. He went through the achievements of the ERF, which are detailed in the Annual Report.

The major task was promoting the idea of a Town (Parish) Council for Emsworth.

Thanks to the ERF and its tireless campaigning we have got over the first phase and have shown that there was real support in Emsworth for the proposal. The final decision will be made by HBC on 15 July. *(Editor: Unfortunately just too late for this edition).*

Mike Bateman then talked about the role of ERF in Neighbourhood Planning and how the ERF scrutinises planning applications and sends in comments to HBC.

Ellie Turnbull talked about how the ERF was reaching out to young people with a number of activity days for 11-16 year olds, outdoor sports activities at the recreation grounds and also support for the young quilters group. Future plans include a youth shelter in the recreation ground and cookery courses. Mike Ridley spoke about how the ERF would like to see improvements to the recreation grounds and to give support to the Town Centre.

The chair then welcomed the special guest speaker, Cllr Gillian Harris, MBE, Leader of Havant Borough Council. She is the first female leader of HBC since it was formed in 1974. She is also Cabinet Lead for Corporate Strategy, Regeneration, Communications, and Chairman of Human Resources Committee.

Havant BC

Councillor Gillian Harris

She gave details of the new HBC cabinet (see P4). She gave some information about the forthcoming local government reorganisation (see P5). HBC will continue to operate until 31 March 2028. As from 1 April 2028 - vesting day - all services will be delivered by the new South East Hants Unitary Authority. Gillian hinted that the new authority may end up being called Portsmouth & SE Hants Council. She also talked about the HBC Local Plan which they hope will be completed by the end of 2026, for examination in 2027 and adoption in early 2028. The Plan will go out to consultation from 20 July to 9 September 2026.
http://bit.ly/4v6RO2u

ERF Committee members Dan Grove, Jill Millar, Ellie Turnbull and Rich Taylor were elected for a three year term.

Deliverers wanted (volunteers)

We are always looking for people to help deliver The Ems.

Please contact: jandgmil@btinternet.com if you can assist.

By Suzy Gardiner, Sports Correspondent
Email: sport.theems@gmail.com

Emsworth Town FC

It has been a big season for Emsworth Town Football Club as both of our Saturday and Sunday Men's teams competed at their highest level ever. After winning the Mid Solent Football League the previous season, Emsworth Town moved into the West Sussex Football League after securing a brand new home ground located past the County border at Sidlesham Memorial Recreation Ground.

The Oystermen got placed into the West Sussex Football League Division 1 South. After what was a very successful season for the club we became runners-up of the Centenary Cup and became Division 1 South Champions, winning the league by 7 points and earning promotion into the Premier Division.

Thank You, Andy: A Legacy That Will Last for Generations

Words by Bianca Carr

There are very few people whose impact on a community can truly be measured, but Andy Cooper is undoubtedly one of them.

After founding Emsworth Town Youth FC and serving as Chairman for the past 9 years, Andy stepped down from the role at the end of June. While this marks the end of an era for the club, it is also an opportunity to celebrate an extraordinary legacy built on dedication, passion and an unwavering commitment to local children and families.

What began as an idea to create opportunities for young people through football has grown into a thriving community club that has supported hundreds of children over the years. Under Andy's leadership, Emsworth Town Youth FC has become far more than a football club. It has been a place where friendships have been formed, confidence has been built, life skills have been learned and countless memories have been made. Andy has always fought tirelessly for the club, always putting the needs of local young people first.

While there is sadness that Andy has stepped down as Chairman, there is also immense gratitude for everything he has achieved. We are delighted that he will continue to be part of the club as Honorary President, ensuring that his experience, passion and commitment remain part of Emsworth Town Youth FC's future.

On behalf of the players, parents, coaches, volunteers and the wider community, thank you, Andy. Your contribution to Emsworth cannot be measured in goals scored or matches won, but in the opportunities you have created, the lives you have touched and the community you have helped build.

Local boy becomes British champion

Young kickboxing talent Theo Collumbell was crowned British Under-12 Champion following an impressive title-winning performance earlier this year.

On 25 March, Theo competed in a British title fight organised by the Martial Arts All Styles Kick Boxing Organisation. The championship bout consisted of three two-minute rounds, with Theo delivering a dominant performance to defeat his opponent convincingly within just two rounds. Theo's achievement was officially celebrated on Sunday 24 May, when he was presented with his British Under-12 Championship belt during a graduation ceremony hosted by ARO Fitness Kick Boxing at The Selsey Centre.

Theo has trained with ARO Fitness Kick Boxing for the past two years, where his commitment, discipline, and determination have helped him develop into one of the sport's promising young competitors. Established in 1998, ARO Fitness Kick Boxing is a family-run organisation that has grown steadily over the years and now operates 11 clubs across the UK. The organisation has built a strong reputation for helping students of all ages and abilities develop confidence, fitness, discipline, and competitive skills within a supportive environment.

Theo Collumbell with his trainer Ollie Smith

Family, friends, coaches, and fellow students gathered at the ceremony to celebrate Theo's success and recognise the hard work and dedication that led to him becoming a British champion at such a young age. Theo's victory marks a proud achievement both for himself and for the coaching team at ARO Fitness Kick Boxing, whose continued commitment to developing young martial arts talent is helping inspire the next generation of kickboxers across the country.

For anyone interested in learning more about ARO Fitness Kick Boxing, details can be found at www.arofitnesskickboxing.co.uk or by calling 07488 318906.

Badminton Legend

Susan Tooke goes from strength to strength as the season builds and with international tournaments starting.

Since our last report when Sue won the Nationals, she has played the Scottish International where she won Gold in both singles and ladies doubles with Kay Armer in January. Following that, in the Polish Open in March she had her best ever results winning Gold in singles where she beat the 2025 world champion Maria Breszsnika in 2 sets 26-24, 22-20, also winning Gold in doubles with Kay Armer and silver with Klaus Anderson.

Sue Tooke and Kay Armer remain unbeaten since the Nationals in November, winning against the champions twice and against the runners up twice. Sue's latest result was winning in the Austrian Open in the 65s singles. This is all good practice and part of the training for the most important European Championships in Sardinia in September.

Chichester Harbour Race Week 2026 10-14th August

The hugely popular family-friendly Chichester Harbour Race Week (aka 'Fed Week') has now been running successfully for over 60 years.

With the website now open for entries, you can reserve your place in this year's 'must attend' event. Starting on Monday 10 August, the five days of racing are hosted by Hayling Island Sailing Club, the UK's premier championship venue.

This prestigious five-day day event is hugely popular amongst racers across Chichester Harbour and attracts sailors from over 50 clubs across the UK and beyond and often exceeds 500 competitors in 350 boats. Separate events will be provided for the eighteen fleets, run by four separate race teams. The event includes many parent-child teams and former World and Olympic champions, offering something for all.

Follow the link below to enter now for this fantastic summer regatta: www.chichester-harbourraceweek.sailevent.net

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